GULP — SAVE OUR SEAS

WAYS TO STOP TRASHING OCEANS ON UN'S RIO+20 CONFERENCE AGENDA PAGES 14-16

VANCOUVER metro®

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

News worth sharing.

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Upset over TaxiSaver cuts

Feedback. Program subsidizes 50 per cent of taxi fares for people with disabilities

Seniors, people with disabilities and their allies crowd the townhall meeting room at Vancouver city hall Tuesday to protest the proposed elimination of TransLink's TaxiSaver program. KATE WEBB/METRO

About 100 adults and seniors with physical and cognitive disabilities showed up to Vancouver city hall Tuesday to blast TransLink for its decision to cut its 20-year-old TaxiSaver program without any public consultation.

Public outcry prompted the corporation to reconsider that decision last month and launch public consultations, of which Tuesday's meeting was the first.

Sherry Taylor, a senior who has been living with systemic lupus for more than 40 years, shook with nervous energy and outrage as she read a letter to TransLink representatives at the townhall meeting.

"What were you thinking? And what a cowardly way to do this in an in-camera session… and without consultations with seniors nor disabled groups," she chided the transit authority's board of directors, which was represented at the meeting by vice-chair James Bruce.

"This travesty must be rescinded. I am absolutely disgusted with the sneaky way that this has been handled."

The TaxiSaver program subsidizes 50 per cent of taxi fares for people with disabilities, allowing them to get to medical appointments and run errands on short notice. When the decision to axe it was announced a month ago, TransLink said it would save $1.1 million per year that could be reinvested in providing more trips through HandyDART services.

Some at the meeting cried as they told stories of grief, fear and the extreme difficulties they would face without TaxiSavers. Many urged board members to try walking a mile in their shoes.

TransLink's accessibility manager Peter Hill said TransLink is taking the feedback very seriously, and at least five more town hall meetings will soon be scheduled to give everyone who wants it the chance to be heard. A website seeking the public's input is also expected to be launched by the end of the week.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Blast from the past at PNE

The world-famous Star Trek exhibit will be brought in from Vienna to the Pacific National Exhibition PAGE 4

Magnotta's 1st day in court

Suspect accused of killing and dismembering a Montreal university student pleads not guilty through his lawyer Tuesday PAGE 10

The one goal that counts

England gets 1-0 victory over Ukraine amid controversy over a disallowed goal in Euro 2012 PAGE 33

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+ taxes & fees $340

Puerto Vallarta	from $149 + taxes & fees $340
San Francisco	from $258 + taxes & fees $136
Las Vegas	from $269 + taxes & fees $123
Los Angeles	from $299 + taxes & fees $109
Toronto	from $319 + taxes & fees $241
Sydney	from $444 + taxes & fees $908
Ft Lauderdale	from $499 + taxes & fees $148
New Orleans	from $499 + taxes & fees $150
San Juan	from $538 + taxes & fees $158
Bangkok	from $629 + taxes & fees $424

Disneyland Resort

Disneyland Resort Good Neighbor Hotel
from $264◊
+ taxes & fees $131

***Disney's Paradise Pier* Hotel**	from $579◊ + taxes & fees $126
***Disneyland* Hotel**	from $699◊ + taxes & fees $126
***Disney's Grand Californian Hotel* & Spa**	from $799◊ + taxes & fees $126

Above packages include: Air & 4 nights accom at select hotels. Prices are per person based on a family of 4.

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Air + First 2 Nights
from $421
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Glasgow
Air + First 2 Nights — from $420 + taxes & fees $574
INCLUDES accom near Glasgow Central Station. **ADD** hop-on, hop-off tour from $19.

London Air + 6 Nights — from $578 + taxes & fees $575
INCLUDES central accom near Russell Square. **ADD** Red Rover Thames hop-on, hop-off tour from $16.

Amsterdam Air + Rail — from $628 + taxes & fees $491
INCLUDES a Benelux-Germany rail pass.

Greece 8-Day Tour — from $869 taxes & fees included
HIGHLIGHTS Santorini, Aegean Sea, Cyclades Islands and Mykonos. Travel from Santorini to Mykonos.

Frankfurt
Air + 7 Nights 4-Star — from $1016 + taxes & fees $558
INCLUDES central accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $22 per night. **ADD** hop-on, hop off bus from $19.

USA

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights
from $169*
+ taxes & fees $43
INCLUDES airfare from Bellingham and accom on the Strip.

San Francisco Air + 3 Nights — from $435 + taxes & fees $126
INCLUDES boutique accom downtown. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $54 per night. **ADD** wine country tour from $73.

Napa Valley
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star + Car — from $594 + taxes & fees $126
INCLUDES airfare to San Francisco, Napa Valley accom and 3-day car rental with unlimited mileage. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $37 per night. **ADD** Grgich Winery tour from $168.

New York Air + 3 Nights — from $629 + taxes & fees $179
INCLUDES Midtown Manhatten accom.

Miami Air + 6 Nights — from $638 + taxes & fees $131
INCLUDES Miami Beach accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $29 per night. **ADD** Seaquarium day pass from $65.

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights — from $779 + taxes & fees $160
INCLUDES Waikiki accom near beach.

Vacations

Shanghai Air + 6 Nights
from $659
+ taxes & fees $510
INCLUDES central accom near the Bund.

Ecuador Air + 9 Nights — from $1229 + taxes & fees $310
INCLUDES accom in Quito. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $25 per night. **ADD** Equator complex tour from $78.

Buenos Aires Air + 8 Nights — from $1269 + taxes & fees $604
INCLUDES downtown accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $24 per night. **ADD** private tango show from $124.

Thailand Air + 8 Nights — from $1289 + taxes & fees $903
INCLUDES Koh Samui accom on Bophut Beach. **BONUS** daily breakfast and lunch included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $11 per night. **ADD** Koh Pha Ngan daytrip from $91.

Cruise & Stays

San Diego
Air + 2 Nights + 4-Night Cruise
from $629
+ taxes & fees $93
INCLUDES 4-night Pacific Coastal cruise sailing from Vancouver to San Diego visiting Victoria, 2 nights Mission Bay accom and airfare to Vancouver.

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights 4-Star + 2-Night Cruise + Cirque du Soleil — from $649 + taxes & fees $132
INCLUDES all airfare, 2-night cruise sailing Vancouver to San Francisco and 3-night Las Vegas accom on the Strip. **BONUS** tickets to select Cirque du Soleil or other Las Vegas show included.

Hawaii
Air + 2 Nights + 10-Night Cruise — from $1689 + taxes & fees $115
INCLUDES 10-night cruise sailing from Vancouver to Honolulu visiting Hilo, Kona, Maui and Kauai, 2 nights Waikiki accom and airfare from Honolulu to Vancouver.

Long Stay

Bali
Air + 19 Nights 4-Star
from $1699
+ taxes & fees $342
INCLUDES hilltop accom overlooking Nusa Dua beach.

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7 Nights 4-Star
from $457
+ taxes & fees $340

Puerto Vallarta 7 Nights 4-Star	from $475 + taxes & fees $240
Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star	from $555 + taxes & fees $186
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Global survey

Vancouver second-most expensive city in Canada, but only 63rd in the world

A new global survey rates Toronto and Vancouver as among the most expensive cities in North America for expatriates locating there.

The new Mercer cost-of-living survey places Toronto at No. 61 and Vancouver at No. 63 among 214 world cities assessed in cost of living for expatriates.

Only New York at No. 33 is more expensive in North America.

But North America remains relatively cheap by world standards, beaten by cities in Japan, Asia, Europe, Russia, South America, Australia and Africa.

The top three spots went to Tokyo, Luanda, Angola, and Osaka, Japan. The least-expensive city is Karachi, Pakistan, assessed as less than one-third as expensive as Tokyo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cruelty charges

Man accused in sled-dog slaughter gets new court date

A man facing mass cruelty charges in the killing of dozens of sled dogs in 2010 has had his next court appearance moved to August.

Robert Fawcett's lawyer, Greg Diamond, says the defence is going through "a lot of evidence" and needs more time to review it.

Fawcett will now next appear Aug. 16.

Fifty-six dogs were dug up near Whistler in January 2011 after information surfaced that a post-traumatic stress disorder claim to WorkSafeBC was filed by Fawcett. THE CANADIAN PRESS

High water levels are seen Tuesday at the Mission Bridge between Mission and Abbotsford. LINDA PALMER/FOR METRO

Fraser River swells, warnings issued

Flood warning. Chilliwack and New Westminster among municipalities using sandbags

Lower Mainland municipalities that border the swelling Fraser River are bracing for potential peak levels not seen in 40 years.

Officials at the River Forecast Centre issued flood warnings near Prince George and Quesnel Tuesday.

But levels at the Lower Fraser are predicted to peak on Friday or Saturday and would need to rise another 2.5 metres before fears of widespread flooding are warranted.

"I think the effects will be relatively minor," said Neil Peters, provincial inspector of dikes. "There are just a few homes that are outside the dikes in Chilliwack and a few other areas, but none of the major communities are expected to be impacted at all this week."

Chilliwack and New Westminster are among the only municipalities utilizing some of the two million sandbags available from the province.

"The Lower Fraser is in a high stream-flow advisory right now," said Dave Jones, emergency program manager in New Westminster. "When we get into a warning or a flood watch, that's when we get more concerned."

New Westminster has set up sandbags in Queensborough, Quayside and the Braid industrial area.

"I wouldn't anticipate anything within the next couple of days, but you just never know," said Delta Mayor Lois Jackson. "There's still a lot of snow up there and that is still waiting to come down the river. Everybody's watching to see what Mother Nature's got in store."

DANIEL PALMER/FOR METRO

Quoted

"I wouldn't anticipate anything within the next couple of days, but you just never know."

Delta Mayor Lois Jackson

1 NEWS

On the web

'Octomom' facing home foreclosure

'Octomom' Nadya Suleman's California home was put up for auction Tuesday, but there were no bids, so it's been returned to the bank for foreclosure. Go to metronews.ca to learn more.

Mobile news

A notice on Korean Air's website announcing the start of non-stop flights from Korea to Kenya sparked a flurry of angry tweets and Facebook posts earlier this week over the description of Kenyans as indigenous people full of "primitive energy." Scan the code for more.

Permanent home. Women's shelter to get makeover

A women-only emergency shelter in the Downtown Eastside will be expanding its services to help twice as many women after receiving funding from the provincial government.

B.C. Housing Minister Rich Coleman announced Tuesday that the ministry will commit close to $2.3 million to turn the temporary Powell Place Women's Shelter into a permanent, year-round facility.

Trudi Shymka, women's services director of the St. James Community Service Society, said in a statement that the expansion will help more women "find their footing and begin to heal."

The temporary 26-bed shelter — operating at 329 Powell St. since November 2011 — will move back to its original home at 625 Powell St. and transform into a permanent 52-bed shelter with support services. Construction is targeted to begin in the spring of 2013.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Dispute. Teachers' union takes province back to court

The union representing 40,000 teachers in B.C. says it's taking the provincial government back to court over laws ruled unconstitutional.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Susan Griffin ruled in April 2011 that the laws known as Bill 27 and Bill 28 were unconstitutional, and she gave the government until April 2012 to resolve the matter.

Passed in 2002, Bill 27 prohibited the inclusion of items like staffing, class sizes and composition limits in collective agreements. Bill 28 amalgamated school districts and local bargaining units and imposed one collective agreement on teachers in newly amalgamated districts.

The B.C. Teachers Federation says the government failed to address Griffin's ruling in a recent piece of legislation, so it's heading to court in December. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Families first agenda

Province pledges $66 M for anti-gang strategy

The B.C. government is pumping $66 million into an anti-gang strategy that will now continue for another three years. But the NDP says that besides the status quo for the guns and gangs strategy, there's nothing new in the announcement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

20-month sentence

Gay basher convicted on robbery charges

A convicted Vancouver gay basher is going back to jail, this time after robbing a jewelry store in Surrey. Michael Kandola will spend the next 20 months behind bars. He was convicted on robbery charges, as well as using an imitation firearm. CKNW

Star Trek and Family Feud coming to the PNE

Lineup announced. At the Feature Pavilion, visitors can walk through the bridge of the Starship Enterprise

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Leonard Nimoy as Mr. Spock in the television series Star Trek. PARAMOUNT PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

The PNE is going boldly where it has never gone before.

On Tuesday, it announced the return of its walk-through Feature Pavilion and its free-with-admission entertainment and exhibition lineup.

The pavilion will host a world-famous Star Trek exhibit, which is being brought in from Vienna. The exhibit will take three weeks to set up and will occupy 20,000 square feet.

"We're excited," said PNE president and CEO Mike McDaniel. "It's a very strong brand. Not many people have not heard of Star Trek, and so I think it's going to be something that all ages will really enjoy."

PNE-goers can walk through the bridge of the Starship Enterprise, take photos with Captain Kirk's chair and the Transporter Room, and shop for memorabilia at the Star Trek store. The exhibit will also feature a display of scripts, original costumes and ship models.

Star Trek fan Cam Russell said he's excited to get a chance to fulfil his fanboy fantasies.

"I'm pretty sure that everyone who saw that show imagined themselves sitting in (Captain Kirk's) chair, and the fact that they'll get to do it is pretty great," he said.

Meanwhile Family Feud Live will be making its B.C. debut at the PNE's Family Theatre and will be hosted by former Entertainment Tonight host Bob Goen.

"It's probably on a lot of people's lists of things they would love to do, but don't necessarily have the opportunity to head down to a live taping of it," McDaniel said.

Audience members can get a chance to compete for prizes. The Fair at the PNE runs from Aug. 18 to Sept. 3. For more information, visit pne.ca.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

Returning favourites

- Superdogs, with their new Hip Hop Hooray show. Three shows daily at 1:30, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.
- The Peking Acrobats with their incredible acts of flexibility, grace and contortion. Two shows daily at 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- Evolution of Extreme with their new snow-sled tricks and signature gravity-defying stunts. Three shows daily at 2, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

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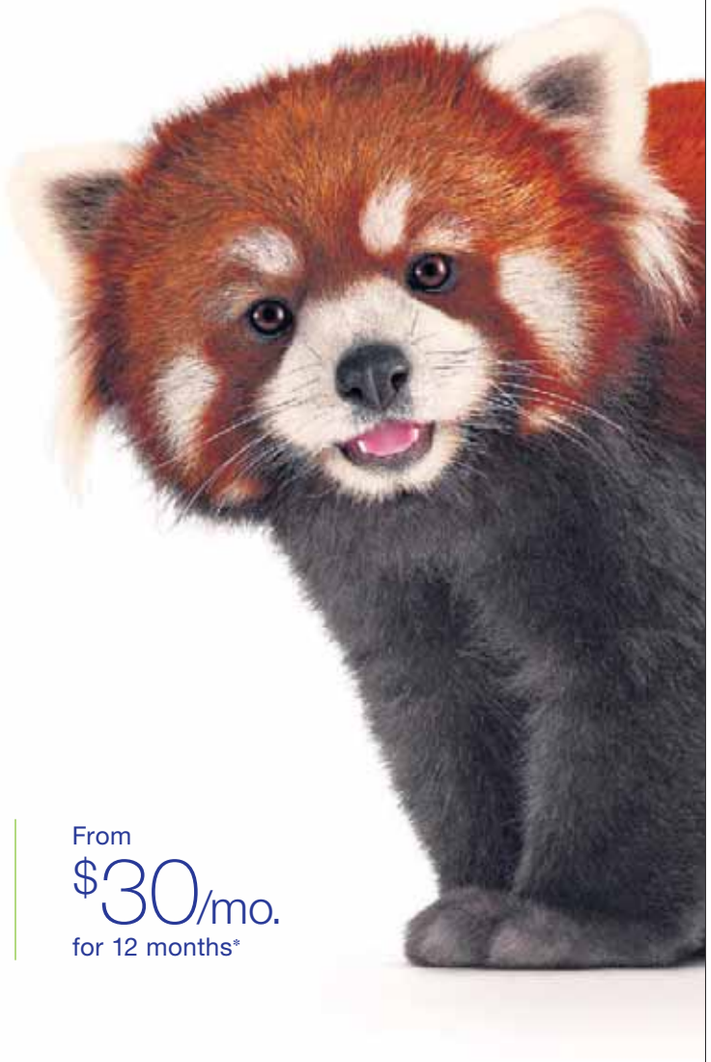

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Walnut Grove Town Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
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Mission
32670 Lougheed Hwy.
32555 London Ave.

New Westminster
Royal City Centre

North Vancouver
Capilano Mall
Lynn Valley Centre
1295 Marine Dr.
1801 Lonsdale Ave.
1392 Main St.

Pitt Meadows
19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Richmond
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Ironwood Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
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Surrey
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Grandview Corners
Guildford Town Centre
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15925 Fraser Hwy.

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Bringing builders to Vancouver

Mini Maker Faire. Hundreds of makers will converge on the city this weekend to share their passion

DANIEL PALMER
vancouver@metronews.ca

The second annual Vancouver Mini Maker Faire will see hundreds of artists, craftmakers and roboticists come together to showcase their skills at the PNE Forum on June 23 and 24.

"The Maker Faire is a celebration of making culture," said public art co-ordinator Mike Zeitz. "There's a lot of people who are really working so that we can invent stuff ourselves again, just for the fun of it."

The Maker movement has grown international in the past six years since its inaugural event in San Mateo, Calif. Some of last year's Vancouver Mini Maker projects included a keyboard connected to organ pipe flamethrowers as well as a robot petting zoo.

This year's fair will feature a converted electric-powered Porsche as well as a "3D printer village," where more than 20 makers will collaborate to create a single joint masterpiece by Sunday afternoon. 3D printers create a real object from a digital image by printing out material layer by layer, Zeitz said.

Many of the makers have harnessed an open-source technology called Arduino, an affordable set of microprocessors that allows hobbyists to build and control endless types of machines.

To promote the event, Zeitz and his colleagues created a set of tall bikes to place around town and draw attention. Zeitz was inspired by last year's "yarn-bombing," in which knitting enthusiasts covered public space with their creations.

The event is organized by members of Vancouver Hack Space and had more than 3,000 attendees last year.

"If you have no idea what it's about, go there and you'll find something you're interested in," Zeitz said.

For tickets and a list of exhibitors, go to vancouver.makerfaire.ca.

Mike Zeitz, public art co-ordinator and bike wrangler, shows off one of his tall bike creations made to promote the Mini Maker Faire, June 23 and 24 at the PNE Forum. DANIEL PALMER/FOR METRO

B.C. murderers lose appeal in Washington state

A Washington state appeals court has rejected the arguments of two B.C. men serving life terms for killing a Seattle-area family.

Sebastian Burns and Atif Rafay argued their convictions for the July 1994 slayings of Rafay's parents and disabled sister should be thrown out because much of the evidence was from a so-called Mr. Big sting called Project Estate conducted by the RCMP.

Lawyers for Burns and Rafay argued details from such stings are not admissible in U.S. courts and the men, who were 18 at the time of the killings, were coerced into admitting to the murders.

But a panel of three judges has ruled proper U.S. legal standards were applied in accepting the sting evidence and that a lower court was right to decide Burns and Rafay confessed voluntarily.

"Viewed in their entirety, the circumstances in the case, including the defendants' private conversations, their participation in the scenarios leading up to the confessions, and their conduct and statements during the confessions themselves, indicate that Project Estate did not vitiate the defendants' ability to make independent or rational decisions or otherwise overcome their will," the judges said in their written ruling.

Hours of audio and video recordings made in the men's house and during various scenarios provide a "uniquely rich context for assessing the effect of the undercover operations on the defendants."

Burns and Rafay are each serving three consecutive life terms for the murders, but have been spared the death penalty because of an extradition arrangement that returned them to Washington state in 2001.

They became friends while attending high school in West Vancouver and the jury at the men's six-month trial was told Rafay was motivated by money and planned the slayings while Burns carried them out.

The two men, who'd been visiting Rafay's family in Bellevue, Wash., told police they returned to the house at about 2 a.m. on July 14, 1994 and found Rafay's relatives dead after an apparent break-in.

They returned to Vancouver a few days later without attending the family's funeral.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Guitarist Michael Bellwood auditions on Monday at TransLink's So You Think You Can Busk competition in hopes of winning a busking licence. KATE WEBB/METRO

TransLink could put busking auditions to online vote next year

Licenses. One audition judge says competition could use some American Idol-style democracy

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

The results of TransLink's So You Think You Can Busk competition for 11 busking licences were announced Tuesday, and the judges are already thinking ahead to next year, when the decision could be put to a public vote for the first time ever.

TransLink spokesman Drew Snider is one of the three judges who auditioned almost 50 acts on Monday, and said the media response has got him thinking about bringing in some American Idol-style democracy.

"It's something I've pitched, and we'll see if it goes anywhere," he told Metro on Tuesday.

"What I would envision is video going up and people looking at the videos and voting on it.... It's a lot easier to do that now, so it's something I think we'll take a look at for next year.

"I can't say for certain because it's not totally my department, but it's a heck of an idea and we're looking at it."

Busking licences cost $75 per year, but they are in high demand as TransLink only issues about 42 of them per year, most of which get renewed by the same artists.

Snider said some performers make $300 to $400 per week or more playing a busy SkyTrain station.

Follow Kate Webb on Twitter @MetroK8

Busker festival

- Vancouver will host its first annual International Busker Festival from July 9 to 15 in Yaletown and Gastown and on Granville Island.
- The lineup includes a world-renowned sidewalk artist, a Juilliard-trained guitarist from Brazil, a juggler and even acrobats. Stay tuned for more in Metro.

Stanley Cup

Kings fan mocks Canucks fans in ad

A Los Angeles Kings fan took a highly classified approach to gloat about the team's recent Stanley Cup win, mocking both Devils and Canucks fans.

In Monday's The Province newspaper, a Kings fan took aim at the Vancouver Canucks faithful with a classified ad that reads, "LAKings2012StanleyCupChampions! Dear Canucks fans, Better luck next year! Sincerely, L.A. Kings fan."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Surrey. Man who admitted killing girlfriend handed four-year prison sentence

A Surrey man who admitted killing his girlfriend has been sentenced for the crime.

RCMP Sgt. Jennifer Pound says Harvey Bracken was handed a four-year prison sentence.

Bracken pleaded guilty to murdering 40-year-old Jennifer Ferguson, whose body was found wrapped in plastic in a North Vancouver park, a few days after she disappeared in January 2011.

Ferguson had lived with Bracken and was reported missing by her family.

Pound says Bracken was arrested shortly after the woman's body was recovered and that he's been in custody ever since.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more local news visit metronews.ca/vancouver

An Egyptian man chants slogans against the Supreme Council for the Armed Forces outside the Egyptian parliament in Cairo on Tuesday, as ousted Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak was being kept alive by life support.
MANU BRABO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hosni Mubarak on life support, adding to new uncertainty in Egypt

Crisis in Cairo.
Questions arise over former leader's successor — and whether the position still holds power

Egypt's Hosni Mubarak was being kept alive by life support after he was rushed from prison to a military hospital in a rapidly worsening condition, officials said. The 84-year-old ousted leader's health crisis added a new element of uncertainty just as a potentially explosive fight opened over who will succeed him.

The state news agency MENA said Mubarak was "clinically dead" when he arrived at the hospital and that doctors used a defibrillator on him several times. It initially said the efforts were not successful.

Hosni Mubarak THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

But the official said Mubarak was put on life support. He had no further details on his condition. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

The developments add further layers to what is threatening to become a new chapter of unrest and political power struggles in Egypt, 16 months after Mubarak was ousted by a popular uprising demanding democracy. Egyptians were uncertain about Mubarak's fate, about who will succeed him and about whether his successor will have any power.

The campaign of Mubarak's former prime minister, Ahmed Shafiq, said Tuesday he has won Egypt's presidential election, countering the Muslim Brotherhood's claim of victory for its candidate, Mohammed Morsi.

The election commission is to announce the official final results on Thursday and no matter who it names as victor, his rival is likely to reject the result as a fraud.

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Magnotta pleads not guilty in his first court appearance

Body-parts case.
One day after arriving from Germany, accused killer is impassive in video link

Luka Rocco Magnotta has pleaded not guilty in the body-parts case, appearing calm Tuesday in his first court session.

Projected into the Montreal courtroom by video link, Magnotta protested his innocence in the slaying-and-dismemberment case that has shocked the world.

His appearance lasted about three minutes.

Magnotta was impassive as he appeared onscreen at the courthouse.

Actually, he was standing at a police station in a different part of the city, flanked by a guard.

Task ahead

"Sure, it's going to be a difficult case, but they're all difficult cases."

Louis Bouthillier,
Crown lawyer

The 29-year-old murder suspect had arrived in Canada the previous day, shackled as he was returned from Germany aboard a military plane.

Magnotta, a self-described porn actor and prostitute, faces five charges, including first-degree murder, defiling a corpse, and harassing Prime Minister Stephen Harper and members of Parliament, as well as publishing and mailing obscene material.

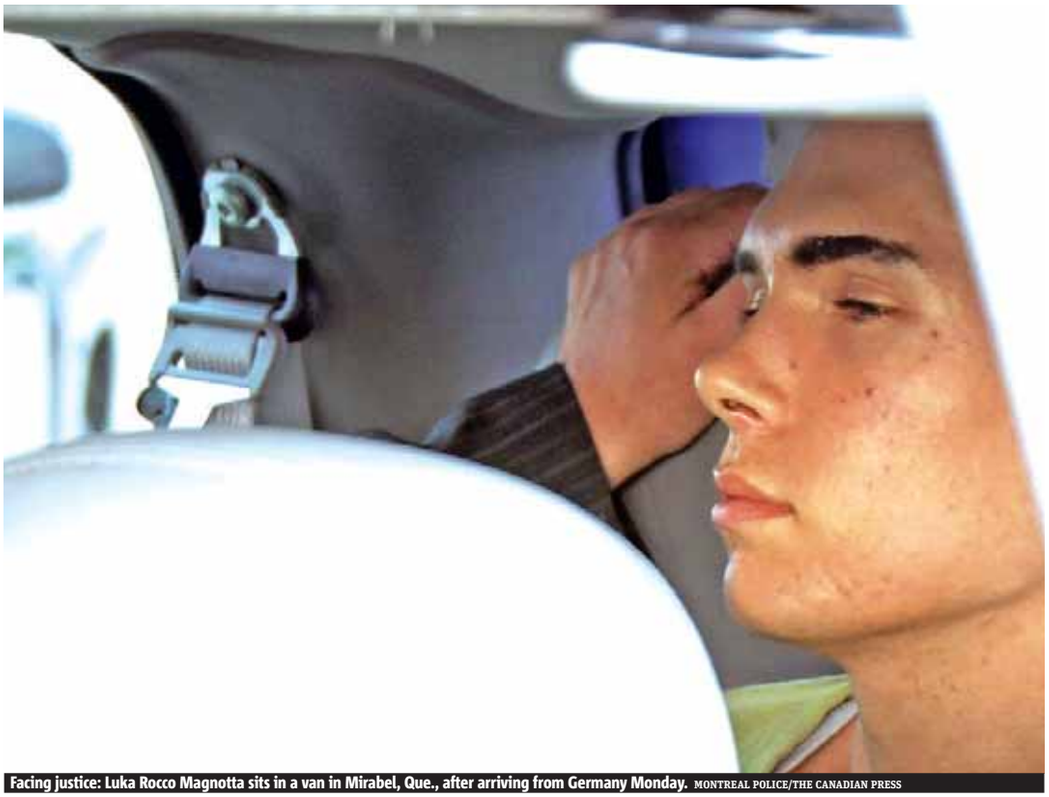
He is accused of killing and dismembering Montreal university student Jun Lin, mailing out his body parts to different places, including the Ottawa offices of the Conservative Party of Canada, and posting a video of the events on the Internet.

Appearing before Justice Lori-Renee Weitzman, Magnotta pleaded not guilty through his lawyer Pierre Panaccio.

The case returns to court on Thursday, again by video, to discuss a motion to have Magnotta evaluated.

The Crown has assigned two of its most seasoned prosecutors to the case — Louis Bouthillier and Hélène Di Salvo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Facing justice: Luka Rocco Magnotta sits in a van in Mirabel, Que., after arriving from Germany Monday. MONTREAL POLICE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Everything but the kitchen sink

Kayakers surveying the most remote beaches of the northwestern state of Washington for debris from last year's Japanese tsunami say they believe they have found part of a house.

There were also pieces of a washing machine, laundry hamper and child's toilet bowl, they said.

Three kayakers with the Ikkatsu Project wrote in a report this week that they found the remnants June 12 as they worked their way up a beach near the northwestern tip of the Olympic Peninsula, about 190 kilometres west of Seattle on the Makah Indian Reservation. They discovered a lumber pile mixed in with driftwood and seaweed.

The lumber's dimensions were metric, and some of it was stamped with a serial number they traced to a mill in Osaka — the Diawa Pallet Housou Co., the kayakers wrote.

Some of pieces were nailed together, kayaker Ken Campbell said Tuesday.

In the same area, they found other household items, including a glass bottle of cherry-flavoured cough syrup and a red container of kerosene with Japanese writing.

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On stilts no less! 150 years before Nik Wallenda there was daredevil Charles Blondin

One hundred and fifty years before wire walker Nik Wallenda crossed Niagara Falls, a Victoria woman's relative was walking a tightrope across the Niagara Gorge — on stilts.

"He did it on a hemp rope," said Linda Seabrook, the great-great-great-granddaughter of daredevil Charles Blondin.

Wallenda made the crossing in Niagara Falls last Friday to a televised audience of millions.

Despite his protests, he was strapped to the wire with a harness at the request of ABC Television.

Seabrook says that, unlike Wallenda, her ancestor walked across the Niagara River without a safety net multiple times.

She says he was best known for his theatrics on the tightrope.

He once made the crossing blindfolded. Another time he carried his manager on his back. He even cooked an entire omelette, and ate it while sitting down on the rope.

ELIZABETH HAMES/FOR METRO

Charles Blondin carrying his manager, Harry Colcord, on a tightrope. COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

'The Great Blondin'

He was born in 1840s France as Jean-Francois Gravelet, but he adopted Charles Blondin as his stage name. Blondin's parents enrolled him in an acrobatics school.

- Seabrook said the daredevil gene hasn't descended to her. She is an accountant.
- Touring he became "The Great Blondin."

Healthy ice cream for dogs

Paolo, right, serves Kiyoko ice cream in a pet shop in Rome on Monday. Gelato for dogs contains no milk products harmful to canines. With temperatures in Rome topping 36 C, dogs are lapping up the icy treat from pet supply stores. ANDREW MEDICHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin. Dutch man who claimed memory loss faces fraud investigation

Tough times may be ahead for the Dutch man who claimed for months he was a teenager with memory loss who had been living in woods outside Berlin.

Police said Tuesday they've opened a fraud investigation against Robin van Helsum. Berlin youth authorities are tallying the costs of nine months' care and want it back.

Van Helsum's story fell apart last week after he was identified from a photograph police put out.

He admitted fabricating a story his parents were dead and not knowing who he was. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo from the Berlin police shows a teen who claimed he lived in the forest and had memory loss. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romanian PM

Plagiarism charge

Romania's prime minister Victor Ponta is said to have copied large swaths of his doctoral thesis without proper attribution. About half was plagiarized, says Nature magazine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banned: against Islam

Malaysia bans Canadian's book

A Borders bookstore manager in Malaysia has been charged with distributing a Canadian writer's book that was banned. The book is Allah, Liberty and Love. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RIO+20 IS SENDING OUT

Environment. Metro talks to the Blue Marine Foundation and other experts about how to stop trashing our oceans

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

From June 20 to 22, leaders, officials and advocates from the private and public sectors will meet in Rio de Janeiro for the United Nations' Conference on Sustainable Development, otherwise known as Rio+20. Topics up for discussion include how to solve global poverty, social inequality and the destruction of the environment.

Easy, right? Yeah, sure.

But those planning to attend say the gathering will make a difference, especially for marine advocates. "Rio can go a long way to help our oceans," says Charles Clover, chairman of the Blue Marine Foundation. His organization, which worked with Metro to put together this feature, was created in 2010, and aims to "create marine reserves and private-sector solutions in the sea, which enable fisheries to be restructured to promote sustainable fishing."

Clover says the task is a vital one because the reserves keep fish and other wildlife safe from the destruction wreaked on them almost everywhere else in the oceans by fishing fleets and problems including climate change and pollution. Fishing sustainably also means fishermen can earn a living now and in the future.

"What we really want and need from Rio," Clover says, "is a ratified system of governance for the high seas which would replace the present lack of fishing regulations. They encourage a devastating free-for-all. As part of this, we want Rio to make it possible to create marine reserves in international waters, something that just can't be done as things stand but which is desperately important."

Blue Marine not alone

Another group with an agenda for positive change is the International Ocean Institute (IOI), based in Malta. The nonprofit group hopes to convince nations at Rio to adopt policies to protect our big blue wonders.

"Perhaps Rio can be the wake-up call to the unconscionable attitude humans have toward the ocean, and that our very survival depends on bridging the governance deficit in managing our ocean," says Dr. Awni Behnam, president of IOI.

Pollution is his main concern. Behnam estimates that more than 46,000 pieces of plastic are floating in every square mile of ocean. The concentration is especially high in the North Pacific Gyre in an area known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Ocean currents push all the trash into this area, even if the pollution was deposited from other parts of the world. It's also why scientists see garbage in the most remote parts of the Arctic, more than 1,000 kilometres away from major populations.

"The human-trash problem is not just a cleanliness issue per se, but a really insidious problem," says Steve Gittings, science co-ordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Sanctuary Program, a U.S. government organization.

Not only does the garbage not break down, but it's also invisible, says Dr. Simon Boxall of the National Oceanography Centre. "This isn't some big pile of bags and bottles that we can go and scoop up. It's microscopic dust particles, as the bigger items break down mechanically," he says.

The overall pollution in our environment leads to climate change and ocean acidification, which occurs when the pH level rises, making the water more acidic. Dr. Scott Doney, a senior scientist of marine chemistry and geochemistry at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, Mass., says it occurs when humans burn fossil fuels, producing carbon dioxide, which is absorbed by the ocean and changes the seawater chemistry.

"There aren't any specific human health issues that have come up yet, but what's concerning is that a lot of plants and animals that people depend on appear to be sensitive to changes," Doney says.

So, to sum up...

Overfishing, pollution, climate change — heavy stuff. The key is getting governments on board to help change laws to make regulation easier. "Climate change, for example," Gittings says. "No one seems to want to step up and make the major policy decisions. It's a tricky and costly one."

Organizers hope the Rio+20 conference will provide the push governments need to take action.

Watch The End of the Line

Blue Marine Foundation co-founders George Duffield and Chris Gorell Barnes produced the award-winning documentary The End of the Line. To learn more and to watch the film, go to bluemarinefoundation.

A father and daughter survey the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. GETTY IMAGES

A man-made threat. How we create toxic algae

Watch where you throw out that empty plastic pop bottle! Up to one million seabirds and 100,000 mammals die each year from trash-related problems, the IOI says. Bags routinely choke turtles and seagulls, and if they ingest plastic pieces, it can act as a magnet for other contaminants that cause cancer.

Another issue: Hypoxia eutrophication — which has been attributed to the rise in agricultural chemicals, industrial byproducts and waste from population growth — depletes oxygen in our oceans and causes conditions for harmful algae to proliferate. As animals die and the algae use up all the available oxygen (releasing more carbon dioxide in exchange), this creates what Lisa Levin, director of the Scripps Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, calls oxygen "dead zones." That's a term you never want to hear when about to go for a swim. METRO

Let's think about the impact next time we drive. THINKSTOCK

Need for speed. Drilling has us tearing up seabed

Demand for fossil fuels is driving more companies to drill for oil under the sea. Besides the noise pollution that affects animals that depend on sonar and vocalization to communicate, drilling brings in other contaminants and extra boat traffic, changing the animals' habitat.

"Deep-sea oil and gas and energy extraction already has the potential for major accidents," says Lisa Levin the Scripps Center. "Now, mining companies are set to mine precious metals in the deep ocean. They target countries with limited regulations when it comes to the deep sea."

Through current legislation has created some worldwide marine protectorates, and some countries have taken steps to protect their oceans through clean-seas acts and laws that regulate ship waste, not much will change unless people are willing to change their habits. METRO

AN SOS: SAVE OUR SEAS

In need of a lifeline

Who killed all the fish?

In the 19th century, visitors to European coastal resorts were often greeted with the sight of huge skates hanging from wooden stakes along the shore, some the size of dining tables. The meat of these fish was considered too tough and rank to be eaten fresh, but a few days in the open air softened them up nicely.

Such giants are unfamiliar to modern shoppers because there are virtually none left. Even by the mid-19th century they had begun to decline as bottom trawlers dragged their nets across ever larger areas of seabed, and hook-studded longlines stretched farther.

The common skate is but one of dozens of fish that have come and gone from markets in the past century. Fisheries the world over made the revolutionary transition to engine power in about 1900, allowing boats to deploy bigger nets and fish deeper and farther offshore.

Add fast-freezing to the package — an invention of American entrepreneur Clarence Birdseye in the 1920s — and fishermen were freed to move into the haunts of exotic new species.

Rachel Carson, whose book Silent Spring started the environmental movement 50 years ago, wrote a pamphlet in 1943 urging housewives to try new fish species. Two of her picks, the rose fish and the wolf fish, enjoyed a brief boom in catches. But stocks rapidly collapsed and they are scarce today.

Orange roughy, another deepwater fish, burst onto markets in Australia and then across the world in the 1980s when huge stocks were discovered 1,000 metres down, only to collapse a few years later.

There is a good chance that a recent favourite from Antarctic waters, the Patagonian toothfish, known as Chilean seabass to North Americans, will soon follow the roughy's fate.

Elsewhere, the ongoing collapse of the bluefin tuna — the world's most expensive fish — could see them disappear from the table within a few years.

In an oft-repeated pattern, big predators such as bluefin decline quickly and are replaced by animals from lower down the food chain, like prawns and squid. In the past, we shunned these species and threw them back or used them as bait.

Some kinds of seafood have boomed, busted and made a comeback as fish farms have spread, such as oysters which were popular among common people before the end of the 19th century but in the early 20th century most stocks had collapsed from overfishing, disease and pollution. Today fresh oysters are back on the menu, as sweet and delicious as ever.

Unless overfishing is brought under control, we will see further losses of common seafood species, and many scientists predict a future in which we must eat jellyfish or plankton for want of anything else.

TOGETHER WITH BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION and The End of the Line (endoftheline.com)

PROFESSOR CALLUM ROBERTS
Trustee of the Blue Marine Foundation and author of Ocean of Life: How our Seas are Changing

The stats

17x

Fishing vessels have to put in 17 times more effort today than in 1889 to catch the same quantity of fish in U.K. waters. Source: Professor Callum Roberts, University of York, U.K.

79.7M

79.7 million tonnes of fish were caught at sea in 2009. When farmed and inland fish are taken into account, more than 145 million tonnes were produced, of which 117.8 million tonnes were eaten by people. Source: UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

15.7%

On average, every person in the world ate 17.2 kilograms of fish in 2009. It accounted for 15.7 per cent of the global intake of animal protein. Source: FAO

4.3M

In 2009, there were 4.3 million fishing vessels worldwide. Of these, 59 per cent were powered by engines, the rest by sails or oars. Source: FAO

28%

28 per cent of the world's fisheries are over-exploited, 3 per cent are depleted and 1 per cent are recovering. 50 per cent are fully exploited but only 3 per cent are under-exploited while 12 per cent are moderately exploited. Source: FAO

24 tonnes

In Asia each fisherman produces 2.4 tonnes of fish annually. In North America the average fisherman produces 18 tonnes annually. In Europe the average fisherman produces 24 tonnes. Source: Blue Marine Foundation

The Rio+20 headlines

Among the topics to be discussed at this year's conference...

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

1 Toxic oceans

Acidification and resource depletion of the world's seas will be addressed at a dedicated Oceans Day. Themes will include how to deal with disasters such as the BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

2 The $4-trillion question

The UN hopes to sign up 7,000 businesses to invest in clean technology that will have an estimated value of $4 trillion US.

3 Slum rehab

Host country Brazil has led the way in building economic hubs in shantytowns, establishing construction and waste-management groups. Other nations will explore ways to solve poverty and develop infrastructure.

4 BRIC party

This year's conference is driven by Brazil, Russia, India and China — the newly advanced economies known collectively as BRIC. It's an opportunity for new players to gain influence.

5 Collapse?

At press time, only 20 per cent of the Rio+20 draft text agreement had been finalized, amid reports of deep divisions, which led WWF director Jim Leape to predict either a "meaningless agreement or complete collapse."

EXCLUSIVE: Metro VIP

HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

In an exclusive column before Rio+20, Prince Charles shares what he's learned from his sustainability unit

'REBUILD FISH STOCKS AND PREVENT FUTURE EXPLOITATION'

It is all too easy to believe that news on the state of fish stocks amounts to a relentless counsel of doom, but, fortunately, there is a more positive story emerging.

Research conducted by my International Sustainability Unit (I.S.U.) reveals that, in many parts of the world, steps are being taken to establish a much more sustainable way of managing these vital self-renewing resources.

In 2008, developing countries exported about $27 billion worth of fish. Fishing supports the livelihoods of more than 120 million people, and one billion people rely on fish as their main source of protein. So it is important to see that what many call an environmental problem is also an economic and social one. As long as there are fish to catch, many millions of people enjoy job security and the social cohesion that comes from that.

And it could get better. The World Bank recently estimated that an extra $50 billion a year could come from annual catches if better management were put in place. Analysis by my I.S.U. team has shown that many examples of better practice around the world are underpinned by three factors.

First, they have all been implemented with the understanding that fish don't exist in isolation from the environments that sustain them. There are many tools available to

help manage fish stocks in ways that respect ecosystems — things like improving fishing gear, protecting stocks during spawning, setting aside protected areas or taking a precautionary approach to exploitation.

The second characteristic is the creation of well-designed rules for intelligent fishing that are enforced robustly. This includes proper monitoring and appropriate penalties to deter illegal fishing.

Finally, there is sound economics. Good management of fish stocks is rewarded with secure and decent livelihoods for those who do the fishing.

One way to achieve this would be to improve labelling to encourage consumers to demand more sustainable seafood. Another is the establishment of long-term rights that give fishers a stake in the future of their fishing grounds.

It seems to me that it would also make a tremendous difference if official subsidies really focused on supporting socially and environmentally positive activities. All too often, better ways of doing things are inadvertently penalized by how subsidy systems work.

I find it encouraging that there are many examples of positive progress, from the U.S. to Indonesia and from Iceland to Vietnam, where fishing communities are adopting the approaches needed to rebuild fish stocks. The urgent question, it seems to me, is how can these examples of best practice be spread?

One powerful way to do this is through a process I have employed for many years in other sectors — what might be called "seeing is believing." This, simply put, involves inspiring people to change their behaviour through showing them what is already being done through successful examples of best practice. My hope is that my I.S.U. can play a small role in this.

Genuine multi-stakeholder partnerships must urgently be pursued to introduce best practice sustainable fisheries management to all corners of the world. Everyone can play their part, including consumers. They can become more aware of the choices they make and ensure the fish on their plates is sustainably sourced. When you consider that the alternative is the continued decline of the world's fish stocks, I fear that we really have no other choice.

Photo: Derek Tsang

Choose ocean-friendly seafood.

Make a commitment today by signing a pledge at davidsuzuki.org/seafood, and learn more about ocean-friendly seafood!

David Suzuki Foundation

HOW SUSTAINABLE FISHING WORKS
A step-by-step look at how one company, PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack tuna fishery, makes it happen.
STEP ONE
Catches fish using purse seine net. Shoals are surrounded, the bottom is drawn tight shut and the fish are hauled out in what is in effect a huge string bag.
Among the sustainable measures in place: Fish aggregation devices (FADs), floating platforms which attract the fish but also other species, are banned. Also, vessels are limited in how long they are allowed to stay out at sea. And observers accompany each vessel to monitor catches.
STEP TWO
Once on board the fish are stored in holds and frozen.
STEP THREE
They are taken to port for unloading. Transferring catches at sea is banned.
STEP FOUR
Catches landed at port are sent either direct to Pacific Island factories for processing and canning or are loaded into ships to be transported to factories in other parts of the world. Most of the catch is exported under the brand name Pacifical. Pacifical is a joint venture between the PNA and the Netherlands company Sustainable. Among the aims of Pacifical are to promote sustainable fishing, provide local employment and offer tuna to customers at affordable prices (as opposed to paying a premium for sustainably source fish).
3
2.5
2
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STEP FIVE
The main customers are the US, UK, Japan and Korea. PNA controls around 30% of the global tuna supply, and 4 million square miles of sea.
It produces 267,000 tonnes annually,
enough for 2.67 billion tuna sandwiches.

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Report shows wait times worsening

Wait Times report. Decline in performance in imaging, hip and knee replacement, radiation for cancer, heart bypass & cataract surgery

After several years of progress, it appears some provinces are slipping in their quest to reduce the time it takes to receive a number of benchmark medical treatments.

Part of the slide can be attributed to hospitals being overcrowded by elderly patients with dementia — a problem that can only get worse as the population ages, said a report from the Wait Times Alliance issued Tuesday.

Longer waits for key services

"Although some provinces have shown improvement, the overall results point toward lengthier waits."

Report from the Wait Times Alliance.

"Canada needs a national dementia strategy that formally integrates the functions of primary care, specialist care and home-care services with a strong focus on keeping seniors in the community, out of the emergency department and out of hospital," the alliance recommended. It showed a decline in performance for patients in the five priority areas: imaging, hip and knee replacement, radiation for cancer, cataract and heart bypass surgery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Patients line up at the emergency room at Montreal's Sacre Coeur Hospital. A report released Tuesday says there's been a slide backward on wait times, partly because of overcrowded hospitals. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greece. Coalition government could take over by Wednesday

A coalition government could be formed by mid-Wednesday in Greece, the head of the country's socialist party said Tuesday, easing the nation out of a political limbo as it struggles to deal with a financial crisis that is already affecting Europe's economy and markets around the world.

Evangelos Venizelos' socialist PASOK party came third in Sunday's elections. At the core of any administration will be Antonis Samaras' conservative New Democracy party, which came first in Sunday's vote and won 129 of Parliament's 300 seats — short of the 151 needed to govern alone.

Venizelos, who handled Greece's negotiations with its international creditors for several months last year as finance minister, said the government would have the support of the election winner, PASOK and the small Democratic Left party of Fotis Kouvelis, which won 17 seats.

A woman walks next to graffiti in central Athens on Tuesday. A coalition government could be formed by Wednesday. AP PHOTO

His party, he said, "will support this government sincerely and will participate in it in the most beneficial way in order to make it effective and credible."

PASOK would convene its deputies Wednesday morning to define exactly how the party would participate in the government, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Norway

Breivik says his trial shouldn't focus on his sanity

Confessed Norwegian mass killer Anders Behring Breivik says his trial has centred too much on his mental state, and should instead focus on those who lost their lives and politics.

The anti-Muslim fanatic, who killed 77 people last year in a bomb attack and shooting spree, has admitted to the killings but denies criminal guilt because he considers the victims traitors to Norway for supporting immigration. Breivik said Tuesday the trial should focus on the "political reasons" for his attacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Human rights

Five Congo rebel leaders may be responsible for war crimes: UN

The UN's top human-rights official on Tuesday named five Congo rebel leaders who she says may be responsible for war crimes, a rare step prompted by concerns that their group — known as M23 — could continue to rape and kill civilians in the east of the country. Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, frequently speaks out about serious abuses being committed around the world, but it is unusual for her to single out individuals unless they are suspected of being responsible for atrocities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cost-of-living survey. Toronto judged most expensive city in Canada

A new global survey rates Toronto and Vancouver as among the most expensive cities in North America for expatriates locating there.

The new Mercer cost-of-living survey places Toronto at No. 61 and Vancouver at No. 63 among 214 world cities assessed in cost of living for expatriates.

Only New York at No. 33 is more expensive in North America.

But North America remains relatively cheap by world standards, beaten by cities in Asia, Europe, Russia, South America, Australia and Africa.

The top three spots went to Tokyo, Luanda, Angola, and Osaka, Japan. The least-expensive city is Karachi, Pakistan, assessed as less than one-third as expensive as Tokyo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

- Other Canadian cities to make the list were Montreal at 87, Calgary at 92 and Ottawa, the least-expensive of the group, at 115.
- The survey measures the comparative costs of over 200 items, including housing, transport and food.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.65¢ (+0.56¢)

TSX 11,788.36 (+187.23)

OIL $84.03 US (+76¢)

GOLD $1,6221.60 US (-$5.40)

Natural gas: $2.545 US (-9¢)
Dow Jones: 12,837.33 (+95.51)

Canada leaves summit with invite to trade talks

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks at a news conference following the G20 Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico, on Tuesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Summit ends. World leaders call on Europe to take action on eurozone's continuing financial crisis

Prime Minister Stephen Harper leaves the G20 summit in Mexico with an invite to pull up a chair at major trade talks, and newfound confidence that Europe will take bold action to get its economic house in order.

The two-day summit closed Tuesday with leaders of the world's 20 most important economies urging their European counterparts to break the vicious circle of debt-burdened banks and cash-strapped countries.

Even though Europe was at the top of everyone's mind at the summit, behind the scenes Canadian officials were trying to wrap up a long-standing negotiation with the Americans.

Canadian officials met late into Monday night with representatives from the United States. The prime minister followed up Tuesday morning with a one-on-one meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama.

Harper then announced Canada has been asked to sit at the negotiating table for the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership.

"Opening new markets and creating new business opportunities leads to jobs, growth and long-term prosperity for all Canadians," the prime minister said in a statement.

The announcement came a day after G20 host nation Mexico was invited to join the talks.

Nine countries are currently negotiating a free-trade pact that many feel will have more economic strength than the North American Free Trade Agreement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"A TPP agreement will ... provide greater economic opportunity for Canadians."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, on Canada joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks

Report. World's richest saw wealth slip in 2011

Sellers of private jets, exotic sports cars and yachts to cruise the world may be feeling a pinch as the one per cent took a hit last year, albeit a small one.

The turmoil on the financial markets and economic uncertainty took its toll on the world's richest who saw their overall financial wealth dip 1.7 per cent in 2011, according to a report Tuesday by Capgemini and RBC Wealth Management.

The drop for those with investable assets of $1 million US or more, excluding their primary residence and other certain assets, was the first decline since the 2008 financial crisis when it dropped 19.5 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

2.5%

The report found that the number of people with $30 million US or more in investable assets fell 2.5 per cent last year.

Bombardier. CSeries on track to fly this year

Bombardier's new CSeries aircraft is not facing any major production delays that would prevent it from making its maiden flight by year-end, the Quebec-based plane and train maker said Tuesday.

"Yes, the CSeries program is on track," said Mike Arcamone, president of commercial aircraft, adding that Bombardier has found no serious problems that would thwart delivery of the first CSeries aircraft by the end of 2013.

"We are exactly where we want to be with 11 customers and 317 orders," he said.

Arcamone said Bombardier would like to have 20 to 30 customers from around the world by launch.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ready for takeoff

"We're very well pleased with our overall results."

Bob Saia of Pratt & Whitney on the company's new turbofan engine, which will be used in the CSeries aircraft.

Energy. Alberta looks to boost uses of natural gas

Alberta's premier says the province is looking at ways to boost the use of natural gas, including using it as a transportation fuel, at a time when dismal prices have been pinching producers as well as government coffers.

"This is part of the direction we need to go in, because the circumstances have changed to the point where these decisions, that can be made on behalf of government, start to make economic sense — for us and for industry," Alison Redford told a conference on unconventional natural gas Tuesday.

Redford concedes there are barriers to the idea, including the great expense of building refuelling infrastructure and the high purchase price of vehicles that can run on natural gas.

Alberta premier Alison Redford
THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It's time for us to have these conversations," the premier said.

"It will make a difference to the way that we live. It's something that people in our society are talking about. And it needs to be part of what we do in the future."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Gen Y Canadians splurging on luxuries: Report

Purchasing power. Demographic integral to business growth as older generations start to exit the market

Young and trendy members of Generation Y are outspending older Canadians in the luxury markets for fashion, travel and fine dining, according to a report released Tuesday.

The American Express Business Insights report, based on spending data collected from 2009 to 2011, found that Canada's luxury segment has been more resilient to economic uncertainty than markets in Europe and the U.S., dominated by demand from younger people.

"Optimism amongst Canadians appears to be on the rise as luxury spending increased," the credit-card company said in a release.

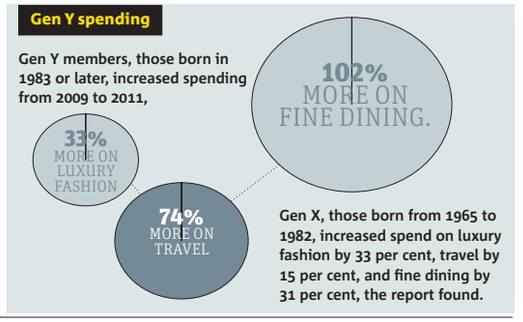
"What has proven most surprising is that in a soft job market, younger Canadians are dominating Canadian luxury spending growth in the core areas of fashion, travel and fine dining."

Luxury spending among young people has increased in recent years even as they face piles of debt from more schooling than prior generations, weak job prospects and an unemployment rate that is about twice the national average.

The findings also suggest the Canadian luxury segment was less impacted during the height of the economic downturn and recovered more quickly than in the U.S. and Europe, which have yet to return to pre-recessionary spending levels in the market.

Canada's luxury segment was down about nine per cent in 2009, compared to a 14 per cent decline in the U.S. and 10 per cent drop in Europe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS


Gen Y spending
Gen Y members, those born in 1983 or later, increased spending from 2009 to 2011,
102% MORE ON FINE DINING.
33% MORE ON LUXURY FASHION
74% MORE ON TRAVEL
Gen X, those born from 1965 to 1982, increased spend on luxury fashion by 33 per cent, travel by 15 per cent, and fine dining by 31 per cent, the report found.

Microsoft. New tablet risks alienating PC makers

With the unveiling of the Surface tablet, Microsoft is heading into unusual territory: competing with its partners, the very same companies that make Windows PCs. But Microsoft has little to lose, since PC manufacturers have so far had very little success with their own tablets.

With the unveiling of its tablet this week Microsoft is taking up the competition with Apple and its iPad by borrowing a page from Apple's playbook. It is keeping both software and hardware development under the same roof.

"If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the compliments from Microsoft poured down like a torrential storm on Apple last night," said analyst Brian White at Topeka Capital Markets.

Even Steve Ballmer, Microsoft's famously tough-talking CEO sounded downright Zen and Apple-inspired as he introduced the Surface.

"We believe that any intersection between human and machine can be made better when all aspects of the experience — hardware and software — are considered and working together," he said at Monday's launch event in Los Angeles.

That's a new philosophy for Microsoft, a company accustomed to writing the software, charging loads of money for it, and letting others design the hardware.

Microsoft has sold hardware before, most notably the Xbox game console, which is essentially a PC. But when it ventured into the game console market, it wasn't directly treading on the toes of the big PC makers who buy Windows from the company. (The exception was Sony, which makes both PCs and PlayStation consoles.)

With Surface, Microsoft faces the challenge of selling the soon-to-be-launched Windows 8 to PC makers who want to make tablets, while at the same time selling tablets directly to consumers.

One sign of limited long-term commitment to making its own tablets is that Microsoft will be selling the tablets only from its own stores and website. That might leave space for other manufacturers to sell Windows tablets through Best Buy and other electronics stores. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Microsoft's Panos Panay holds up the company's new tablet computer, the Surface, in Los Angeles on Monday. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YOU HAD ME AT 330 POUNDS

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Open letter to Rob Ford, mayor of Toronto:

OK, as PR campaigns go, "Cut the Waist" collapsed under its own weight.

It's hard enough pledging to lose 50 pounds in five months, never mind with the whole nation looking on and making fun.

And then, whenever you do turn up to weigh in, a bunch of media jackals pound you with rude questions about transit and budgets.

It's even harder when you fall off the scale on the final weigh-in, 33 pounds from your goal, as the peanut gallery laughs even harder.

We can all relate, Rob

"In fact, according to the United Nations, three-quarters of North Americans are overweight. You're not alone."

But I want you to know: You're my inspiration, Big Guy.

Look, you're not the mayor of Toronto because you're the intellectual heir to Albert Einstein. You're the mayor of Toronto because regular people can relate to you. And regular people struggle with their weight. In fact, according to the United Nations, three-quarters of North Americans are overweight.

You're not alone.

Take me, for instance. I'm a meat yo-yo. I find it easy to lose weight … and I find it even easier to put it back on again. In January, when you joined your brother Doug and pledged to lose 50 pounds, I was 40 pounds overweight and contemplating a trip to Mr. Big and Tall for a wardrobe upgrade.

I figured if the Big Guy could wrap his meaty paw around a stick of celery, well, so could I. And as you took the heat, I got out of the kitchen. Since January, I've lost 31 pounds and "Freedom 40" is in sight. Plus I've managed to get on and off the scale without injuring myself. Bonus.

Although I've managed to keep my jaw shut at key moments, it hasn't been easy. You were subject to ridicule when you were discovered slinking out of KFC. Let me say that I am haunted daily by KFC. I could eat a whole family bucket of that stuff and then hit the fries and gravy.

And it's not just KFC. That A&W Root Bear relentlessly pursues me with discount coupons. And every day at quittin' time, the hungriest time, I have to walk past the best pizza joint on the planet and all those succulent slices laid out on the slab. The aroma alone is fattening.

The glass is half empty, and that's a good thing. You're 13 pounds lighter than you were in January. You proved to yourself and the rest of Fat City that you can lose weight if you put your mind to it.

Keep going. Do it for yourself, and no one else.

And I'll see you on the skinny side.

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford had his final weigh in Monday, where he missed his weight-loss target by 33 pounds and then fell off the scale.
PAWEL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Saved by royal appointment

GETTY IMAGES

Rhino conservation

Prince condemns horn poachers

In a rare interview, Prince William has condemned people involved in the illegal trade of rhino horns as "extremely ignorant, selfish and utterly wrong." He was speaking in Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Ashford, Kent, southeast England, to meet three endangered black rhinos before they were reintroduced into the wild in Tanzania. METRO

The Prince's speech

- **It's all about education.** "My message to them is simply 'Stop'. … It's a message about educating people and understanding that when you buy that rhino horn, or when you buy that ivory, you are taking this from an animal that has been slaughtered for this decorative ornament you have on your mantelpiece and you have at home. Is that really what you desire and what you feel is right in the world?"

Rhinos in numbers

4,800

black rhinos are left in the wild in Africa, with experts saying the animal is being slaughtered at the rate of two a day.

Illegal trade

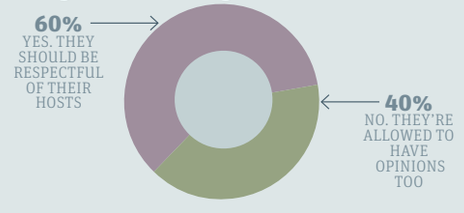
Demand puts rhinos on brink

Black rhinoceros, native to eastern and central areas of Africa, have been poached to the brink of extinction due to the demand for their horn, both for use in Chinese traditional medicine and for traditional Yemeni dagger handles. Experts estimate that around 95 per cent of the black rhino population has been lost. A single horn can fetch $250,000 US. METRO

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Do celebrities who diss the city they are filming in deserve to get flak for it?



Twitter

@thekatvond:
OH, CANADA! Flying out to Vancouver tomorrow! It's been way too long!

@strombone1:
Grab a ball and throw it against the wall, never a bad time to practice "@eddielack Someone want to help me kill 2 hours at the airport?"

@Murray_A:
To all #Vancouver-ites… summer begins tomorrow at 4:09pm. Get out your sunblock!

@kim_mercado_tv:
First day of summer tomorrow..... we can do this Mother Nature! Give us some #vancouver #sunshine please!!

@n8brophy:
I miss having seasons... year round temperature and climate doesn't change anymore. #Vancouver

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Brave tells the story of a Celtic princess who rebels against her mother. Scottish actress Kelly Macdonald voices Merida, the film's anti-princess. DISNEY/PIXAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fairy tale revamp: Damsels in distress a thing of the past

Brave girls. The new generation of movie princesses do so much more than wait for Prince Charming to save the day

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

When one thinks about movie princesses a few names come top of mind: Snow White, Cinderella, Aurora and Belle. This fab four have come to define what being a movie princess is all about. Or at least they used to.

Once upon a time a movie princess was a damsel in distress, swathed in pink and jewels, waiting for Prince Charming to come to the rescue.

Lately, however, the movies have given us a different kind of princess, one who is more into grrrl-power than girly-girl.

Mark Andrews, the co-director of this weekend's cinema release Brave, the story of a Celtic princess who rebels against her mother, calls the movie's lead character "an anti-princess."

"She's an active and action-oriented person," he says. "She wants to get out in the outdoors of the Highlands, escaping from castle life and exploring the woods."

Brave isn't the first movie to shatter the stereotype of the pretty pink princess.

According to Roger Ebert, Ariel, the teenage mermaid princess of The Little Mermaid, "is a fully realized female character who thinks and acts independently, even rebelliously, instead of hanging around passively while the fates decide her destiny."

In other words, she still marries her prince charming, but for the first time a Disney princess gave a lesson in independence and had a hand (or fin) in deciding her fate.

The success of that movie led to a new batch of princesses who were empowered and could look after themselves and others.

Pocahontas was an adventurous princess who put her own life at risk to stop a war between her people, the Powhatans, and the British settlers, and the fiery Mulan broke gender boundaries by enlisting in the army and saving China from total devastation at the hands of the Huns.

Jasmine, the daughter of the wealthy Sultan of Agrabah and the princess at the heart of Aladdin, didn't fight off invaders but she did do something that made her unique in the Disney princess world.

Tired of life in the royal palace, instead of waiting for rescue, the independently minded noblewoman made her own way, even deciding to marry a commoner rather than a prince.

But not all anti-princesses are animated.

The recent mega-flop John Carter featured Martian Princess Dejah Thoris (Lynn Collins) who, despite falling for the prince charming title character, was also a warrior and a scientist who wasn't afraid to stand up for things she believed in.

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Ever wanted to see Shia LaBeouf naked?

If Sigur Ros' new video were a movie, it might merit an NC-17 rating. For the band's clip of Fjogur Piano released Monday, Transformers star Shia LaBeouf appears naked. Alma Har'el directed the video. It is part of a series being created for the band's latest album Valtari. The video also features female nudity, dancing, an octopus, lollipops and trippy images. Band bassist Georg Holm said the director and LaBeouf collaborated on the idea for it. Holm described it as "absolutely amazing." Videos don't come with ratings. But the Sigur Ros video does have a warning for its content before it begins. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Justin Bieber proves too hot for Apollo Theater as power goes out

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History gets a bloody makeover in Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter

Take that, Twilight. Film gives a unique twist on the civil war as the 16th U.S. president makes it his mission to eliminate deadly blood suckers

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

Benjamin Walker portraying Abraham Lincoln, left, and Dominic Cooper as Henry Sturgis in a scene from Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. (STEPHEN VAUGHAN/20TH CENTURY FOX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Despite the fact that Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter makes some bold claims about the "real" life of the 16th U.S. president, author and screenwriter Seth Grahame-Smith took painstaking effort to make sure the film was as historically accurate as possible.

Well, except for the parts with the fangs.

"In the opening of the movie, there's a quote that says 'History prefers legends to men,'" Grahame-Smith explained to Metro. "That's the truth: We've made Lincoln a legend, and we forgot that he was also a man. This film deals much more with the man of Lincoln than the myth or the legend."

While the movie's title Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter is certainly absurd, the cast and crew of the film insist that the jokes end there. Instead of turning the project into a spoof of U.S. history, the film emphasizes the flaws that made Lincoln such a great humanitarian.

Producer Tim Burton and director Timur Bekmambetov (Wanted) use the backdrop of the Civil War to weave an action-filled tale about how one poor individual with a life full of tragedy could become one of America's most respected men.

Bekmambetov explained foremost this movie is about the boy who would become Lincoln and the personal motivations that led him to change the course of history. In a way, the director points out, it's not just a historically based film — it's a superhero movie.

"It's not about vampires," Bekmambetov said. "This is the most important part: When you see a young boy, and suddenly he becomes Lincoln and emotionally you understand it."

"It's the most powerful special effect of the movie," he added.

Grahame-Smith agrees.

"What was the cool thing about having a Russian director make this movie was he didn't bring in any of that sort of emotional baggage to it," Grahame-Smith said. "He was able to approach Lincoln as a man before a myth."

Keeping with being as accurate as possible, the team decided to shoot the film in 3D because of actual 3D photos from the Civil War era they had uncovered from their research. Bekmambetov saw it as a way to bring people in the middle of all the action.

"Based on those photographs, it just seems completely obvious and the right tool for this particular production. It brings you there. And, again it was very clear from these photographs it was exactly the way to go," Burton explained.

But, it's hard to deny that Lincoln's axe-wielding skills and ability to slice off people's heads with one blow is what drew people's attention in the first place. It's the element of the fantastical that changes this regular history lesson into something a bit more interesting.

"Nobody has made this kind of movie before," Bekmambetov claimed. "There's no way the audience can say, 'No, I saw this many times.' No, we don't have this problem."

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An actor's tale of two presidents

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

Playing a president always piques the public's attention, and actor Benjamin Walker has not one executive role, but two under his belt.

In Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter, the Julliard-trained actor plays the instrumental leader himself from the age of 19 to his death at 55. Here's what Walker really thought about the script and why he's so good at handling an axe.

So you played Andrew Jackson in the Broadway musical Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson and now you're playing Abraham Lincoln.
Yeah, I got the market cornered on weird presidents.

Which one did you enjoy portraying more?
That's tough. As Americans we're fascinated by our leaders, but I think Lincoln, people are more familiar with his legacy so there's a bit more expected of you when you play Lincoln. The Andrew Jackson that we did was a very absurd interpretation.

What did you honestly think when they gave you the script?
I wanted to know who's directing it. That would tell me what kind of project it would be. When they told me it was Timur (Bekmambetov, who directed Wanted), it kind of put my mind at ease.

How did you prepare for the role?
I read three or four books. The most helpful one was called Lincoln's Melancholy, because it's about his childhood and how he dealt with death and misery and the more gothic side of who he is. That certainly lends itself more nicely to the story we're telling.

What was the most surprising fact that you found out about Lincoln?
Probably the most helpful fact that came to light was that he was an ordinary guy that came from very humble beginnings. That's what makes him extraordinary: In spite of those things, in spite of the death that beset him early in his life, he did extraordinary things in spite of it.

Quoted

"My biggest concern was that it was not campy, that the joke was in the title and that's where it ends. That we're not making fun of it, that were not being disrespectful to Lincoln, that we're trying to make a period piece that had some vampires in it."

Actor Benjamin Walker
On the making of Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter

What did you study to get the mannerisms of Lincoln down? There's not really that much footage from those days...
As in no footage from those days? The thing about our movie, for example Lincoln's voice. What we know about how Lincoln spoke we know from people that wrote about it. We know that it was kind of high pitched and some people described it as annoying. Those things, we started with that and the producers didn't like it because we're making an action movie — and I had to play from 19 to his death and his voice has to age through the movie. There has to be a difference in young Lincoln's voice. So some of that stuff is helpful, and some of that stuff we didn't do.

Bloodied vampire hunter Abraham Lincoln readies for battle with Vadoma (Erin Wasson). CONTRIBUTED

Was this the first time you picked up an axe?
No. What's ironic is I spent the summer before that working cutting down trees with a chainsaw mind you, but yeah, I know how to use an axe!

Now that you've played Jackson and Lincoln, which president would you like to play next?
Ooh that's good. I think Woodrow Wilson would be fascinating.

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Mark Wahlberg

Wahlberg hints at Entourage big screen possibilities

Fans of HBO's inside-Hollywood series Entourage can rest easy. Executive producer Mark Wahlberg confirms to the Today Show that a movie spin-off for the show is in the works, with creator Doug Ellin hard at work on a script.

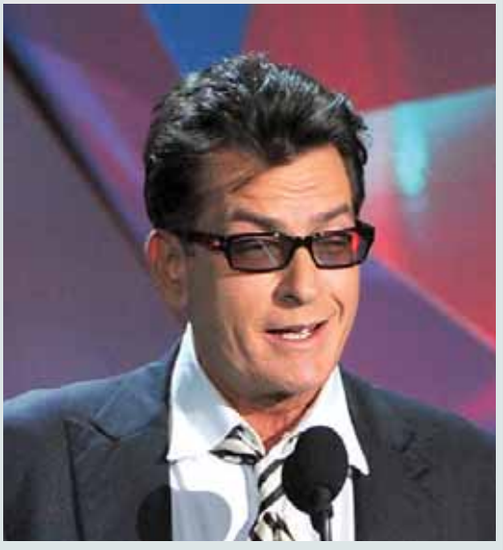
The series ended after eight seasons with all the main characters finding happiness — including Hollywood agent Ari, played by Jeremy Piven, ditching his job to reconcile with his wife — but Wahlberg suggests that won't last.

"The dream job (Ari) got offered is too good to pass up," Wahlberg teases about future possibilities.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Charlie Sheen preparing for retirement

Charlie Sheen insists that his new series, Anger Management, will be his last gig before retiring.

"When I'm done with this business it's just going to be about soccer games and amusement parks," Sheen tells the New York Times.

"And when this ends, I'm done. This is my swan song."

Aside from looking forward to spending more time with his kids, Sheen is also excited to have something else after Two and a Half Men, which "wasn't meant to be my legacy," he says. "This is."

Of course, the show may not end anytime soon. While only 10 episodes of Anger Management have been filmed, if the network decides to keep it, they'll immediately order 90 more, thanks to Sheen's one-of-a-kind contract.

METRO

Bieber likes to keep his personal life private by talking to magazines about it

Justin Bieber's relationship with Selena Gomez is going great, in case anyone was worried.

"What does love feel like? It feels good. If you're really in love then you should get butterflies. Butterflies and happiness, that's how I feel anyway," Bieber says in an interview with Fabulous magazine.

"My first kiss with Selena was the best of my life. It was in the car. It was scary and spontaneous and it was just awesome."

Despite his candidness in this particular interview, Bieber admits that he doesn't like to talk about his relationship that much with the press.

"I never like to throw it in my fans' faces. I love my fans and I'd never want to do that to them," he says.

Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

"It's my private life and I like to keep separate. I don't have many things that I get to keep to myself but that's one thing."

Twitter

@nathanfillion
Raining is London's way of crying when I leave. Shhh, sweetheart. I'll be back soon enough.

@billmaher
Got back today from Ohio and Michigan - now I know why they're called swing states, campaign ads on tv this early u want to hang yourself

@alyssa_milano
My son's newest obsession is pinwheels.

@SarahKSilverman
America loves fat guys w boundless energy

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Dunnottar Castle

A ruined medieval fortress on the north-east coast of Scotland dating back to the 15th and 16th century, this imposing outpost was the starting point for designing the DunBroch castle in the film.

Glen Affric

The quintessential mysterious Scottish forest, this nature reserve in the Highlands is possibly the best example of a glen, with moss and heather covering the ground. With the River Affric running through, there's ample opportunities for hiking, rafting and swimming.

Isle of Skye

The largest island of the Inner Hebrides, the Isle of Skye is rife with both folklore and sweeping Highland landscapes. Highlights include the enchanting Faerie Glen, the odd-shaped rock formations of the Quiraing and the 200-foot cliff Kilt Rock.

Pixar's new movie Brave takes place in 10th-Century Scotland. HANDOUT

Scotland — home of castles and the Brave

Pixar. Latest animated film inspires travel to mysterious, historic Scottish sites

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

An animated film may seem like odd inspiration for a vacation, but the folks behind Pixar's latest, Brave, put such painstaking work into digitally recreating Scotland that you won't be able to help but want to go visit. After all, the filmmakers can't have all the fun.

Teams from Pixar headed to Scotland twice during preparation for the film, first to find inspiration and again to take samples to get the natural beauty just right — which turned out to be more difficult than expected.

"The reason Brave is so incredibly challenging is because the computer likes to make things perfect, geometric," says Pixar head John Lasseter.

"When you're dealing with ancient Scotland, every single item — every stone, every tree, every structure — has a tremendous sense of history to it with layers of moss and dirt and wear from the weather. There's a certain level of detail that you need to have in order to make this kind of environment believable."

Co-director Steve Purcell admits that while they were in Scotland on business, it never really felt like work.

"It's definitely fun. We did a lot sketching and drawing, and we'd meet the local people in whatever town and ask them what kind of folklore and stories they had," Purcell says.

"(Ardanaiseig Hotel) was one of our favourites, just because it was so colourful. The owner's son gave me a wooden cross to take to my room that night. He said, 'I hope you're very strong because you have a strong ghost.'"

That sense of folklore and mystery permeates Scotland, explains Brave director Mark Andrews, who was already a fan of the country after spending his honeymoon there.

"Nothing didn't have a story. Every creek and branch and thing," he says.

"We got back and (while) developing the film, we wanted that aspect in there that every character is telling a story or knows a story, or there's a story about everything that's happening in Brave, so you get story upon story upon story upon story, interwoven in the actual movie."

While clearly a big fan of Scotland, Andrews has trouble narrowing down the best places to visit.

"Well, there's Loch Maree up in the Torridons, which is phenomenal. There's a little town called Ullapool, which I know is werewolf-infested," he says.

"On the Isle of Skye, we saw the Queen of the Faeries mound. There are these strange dolomite things in this valley, and nobody lives on that side of the valley because they think it's faery-haunted."

So, we tried to do the job for him, picking the best Brave-inspired locations for your itinerary. See left panel for details.

3 LIFE

Spectacle

Viva Cirque du Soleil

Tickets are now on sale for the latest Cirque du Soleil show to hit the Las Vegas Strip. Members of the general public can start buying tickets Friday for the Zarkana show at Aria Resort and Casino. Tickets went on sale Monday for members of Cirque Club and M Life, and Aria preferred customers. The acrobatic show kicks off in Las Vegas in November.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

The Associated Press sent reporters with a tourist's itinerary in June in five cities around the world — New York, Paris, Tokyo, Dubai, and Buenos Aires. Scan the code to read about the prices and wait times they encountered.

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Scènes de la vie de bohème: BoBo hunting in Paris

Beginner BoBo-hunters may wish to start in Montmartre, Paris. AURELIE RESCH

French hipsters?
Known for their good taste, hitting up BOurgeois BOhemian haunts might make your trip more fun

AURÉLIE RESCH
Life@metronews.ca

Want to try something different while in Paris? Try to look out for BoBos.

BOurgeois BOhemians are people you might tag as shabby chic urban upper class. They prefer to live in a lively neighbourhood with tiny stores that will fill their appetite for expensive organic food, handmade clothes and artifacts and for a "selective social life."

They have strong opinions they won't fight for. They will not market their fortune but they will be on top of the latest gadget innovations. They are handsome, educated and they have good taste. They are a curiosity by themselves.

How do you identify a BoBo? "You ask someone if he/she is one. If they answer they're not, then you've just met one," Alexander, my city guide told me.

Where do you find them? Where it is pleasant — but expensive — to live. I stopped asking questions when we started walking in the streets of Montmartre, a well known bastion in Paris for BoBos.

Along Rue des Abbesses, small shops tempt the visitor with unique clothing and art, while culinary and fresh food stores distill delicious smells.

Lacing up to the church Sacré Coeur, charming paved streets host famous restaurants such as le Moulin de la Galette — painted by Jean Renoir, notorious theatres such as Ciné 13, which produces creative and unique shows, and lovely plazas which pay tribute to celebrities.

Behind the plaza dedicated to famous French singer Dalida, who lived and died in Montmartre, BoBos will diligently play the pétanque, a game played with metallic balls very popular in southern France.

A bit further, a statue representing a man walking through a wall pays tribute to the hero of Marcel Aymé's short story le Passe Muraille and invites lovers to kiss on the bench.

My next stop for BoBo hunting will be the neighbourhood le Marais — the third arrondissement, or neighbourhood.

Le Marais is famous for it's art galleries, trendy restaurants and BoBo population. Wealth is more prominent in this enclave than in Montmartre. Avid art lovers, BoBos adore le Marais with its elegant façades and its 18th century hotels. Here, luxury is elegance, and seduction stems from discretion.

I spend some time at beautiful Musée Picasso and in front of the Hotel Salé, a marvel from the 18th century. I pause in front of upscale boutiques and walk to le Marché des enfants rouges — the city's oldest market — to indulge in one of its many culinary boutiques and stands.

It is in Rue Mouffetard, 13th arrondissement, that BoBos pursue their quest of "bien-être," or well-being, and experience a quality of life different from most Parisians, even though they inhabit the same city.

Rue Mouffetard is one of the oldest streets in Paris. It is filled with unpretentious but lovely buildings with nice façades and exceptional food stores and flower shops. Each of these boutiques is a delight for the senses. Everything is beautiful, aromatic and tasty.

In Rue Mouffetard, people take time to walk, talk and laugh with merchants and pedestrians. Muguet, my guide, took me on a culinary tour in this unique area and educated me on picking up the freshest products.

After a few days wandering in Paris, you might not become an artist, nor will you live in a loft apartment in one of these divine arrondissements, but you may very well be able to embrace the Parisian "joie de vivre" and know how and where to look to fill your desire for beauty and taste.

Parisian streets teem with culinary delights. AURELIE RESCH

Believe it or not, this statue of a Marcel Ayme character is inviting kisses below. AURELIE RESCH

To go to Paris

Air Transat operates six weekly flights from Toronto to Paris until October 2012. Transat Holiday will help you tailor your needs for your vacation in Paris.

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- **Culinary tour of rue Mouffetard: parissweetparis.com**
- **Self-guided walking tours across Paris: paris48.com**

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Tacos get a modern low-calorie & Thai makeover

If you ordered these Thai Tacos with slaw from a take-out establishment, they would come in at a hefty 800 calories. In this recipe, a serving is 400 calories, half of the fast-food variety.

Make your meal a combo with a tasty Asian Slaw.

Chili Thai Tacos

This meal serves two. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Ingredients

2 portions

Chili Thai Tacos
- 4 taco shells
- 3 cans (each 85 g) flaked light tuna (Spicy Thai Chili flavour)
- 60 ml (4 tbsp) sour cream, divided
- 250 ml (1 cup) shredded iceberg lettuce
- 1 tomato, diced
- 2 lime wedges, for garnish

Asian Slaw
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) rice wine vinegar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) Dijon mustard
- 60 ml (4 tbsp) sesame oil
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) shredded red cabbage
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) shredded green cabbage
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) grated carrot
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) sesame seeds, toasted

1. Toast taco shells for 20 to 30 seconds in a toaster oven or for 1 minute in a 180 C (350 F) conventional oven.

2. In a sauté pan, lightly heat tuna. Reduce heat to low and quickly stir in half the sour cream. Place a quarter of the tuna mixture into each taco shell. Top with lettuce, tomato and remaining sour cream. Garnish with lime wedges.

3. Asian Slaw: In a small bowl, whisk together rice wine vinegar and Dijon mustard. Slowly drizzle in sesame oil, whisking continuously. In a separate bowl, toss cabbages and carrot together. Drizzle dressing over top and garnish with sesame seeds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CLOVER LEAF SEAFOODS

Veggie Option. Zippy flavours and veggies combine for a light snack

Ingredients

4 portions
- 5 ml (1 tsp) canola oil
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped onion
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped green bell pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 pkg (340 g) Mexican veggie ground round
- 12 corn tacos
- 250 ml (1 cup) shredded lettuce
- 250 ml (1 cup) grated cheddar cheese
- 250 ml (1 cup) fresh tomatoes, chopped
- 250 ml (1 cup) refried beans, heated
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) salsa

Try these Mexican tacos with their vegetables and veggie ground round as a light snack or supper.

1. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat oil. Add onion, green pepper and garlic and sauté until soft, about 5 minutes.

2. Mash ground round with fork and add to mixture in skillet. Heat through.

3. Spoon 50 ml (1/4 cup) of filling into each taco shell. Serve with lettuce, cheese, tomatoes, refried beans and salsa separately. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ YVES VEGGIE CUISINE MEXICAN VEGGIE GROUND ROUND

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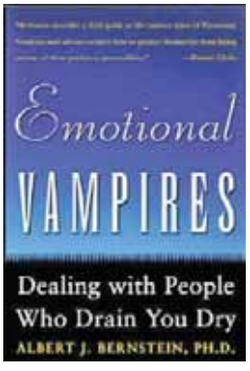
Dracula at a desk.

Author Albert J. Bernstein arms readers with tools to ward off 'emotional vampires'

BRUCE WALSH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Since the mid-90s, Dr. Albert J. Bernstein has been attempting to share wisdom from the psychology profession with everyday employees. In books like Dinosaur Brains, Am I the Only Sane One Working Here? and Neanderthals at Work, he navigates the seamy underbelly of office politics through the lens of a trained psychologist.



Nightmare bosses

According to psychologist and author Albert J. Bernstein, those with two specific personality disorders often become managers:

- **The narcissist.** "There is plenty of narcissism without greatness, but no greatness without narcissism. Who would have the chutzpah to climb the ladder without it? But narcissists have very little idea of how they relate to other people. They are able to pull a curtain over one part of their personality and say, 'This doesn't matter.'"
- **The histrionic.** "They are experts at looking good, with very little substance. ... They're the people that give us the motivational rallies. They're cheerful. They look good. They're can-do. But when it comes to resolving dilemmas, they're not very good at making tough decisions. They don't want to upset anybody."

One of his most popular — Emotional Vampires: Dealing with People Who Drain You Dry — was re-released with added material last month. In Vampires, Bernstein offers strategies for dealing with known personality disorders.

"I'm trying to help people recognize these kinds of people and to understand them, so they can decide for themselves whether they want to take them on or avoid them," says Bernstein.

"What I'm describing, essentially, are the things that make difficult people difficult. It's about recognizing the pattern and choosing the strategy that works best with that pattern."

For Bernstein, an emotional vampire, by definition, also holds many seductive powers.

"They're Ferraris in a world of Toyotas. We expect so much more from them," says Bernstein. "And, of course, we are always let down, because these are people who are not playing by the same rules as us."

Filling up those steel-toed boots

Hammering it home.
Jobs in skilled trades are plentiful, but where are the applicants?

ARINA KHARLAMOVA
TalentEgg.ca

In the next 20 years, 40 per cent of new jobs in Canada will be in skilled trades and technologies. ISTOCK

What do high school, close relatives and the overwhelming pressure from society have in common? Their ignorance of the strength, satisfaction and success that comes from a career in the skilled trades.

Skills Canada and the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum conducted an Ipsos-Reid study in 2004, which found that "60 per cent of youth reported that their parents have not encouraged them to consider a career in trades"; whether that is because their parents wanted them to be all-revered lawyers and doctors, or because skilled trades are socially associated with low caliber, high-stress jobs that earn very little and ask a lot is irrelevant.

These statistics are prevalent, even though news media is full to bursting with stories of unemployed university graduates, graduates unable to find jobs in their fields, or those that graduated into jobs they hate.

So why is university still the top choice when skilled trades — which can include construction, transportation, manufacturing, and service industries — are such lucrative careers with such an available variety of choice?

Because many Canadians are completely unaware of the benefits and opportunities that are available in skilled trades, and thus do not consider it in their decision-making.

Show me the money

"In many cases, skilled trade occupations are some of the best paid available and offer a lot of flexibility for young people"
Sarah Watts-Rynard
Executive Director of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum

Sarah Watts-Rynard, the Executive Director of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum, says that, "There's a lot of misconceptions about skilled trades in our society, and good reasons for them. Over the years, every parent has always wanted his or her child to do better: have a better career and make more money and get ahead. But, in many cases, skilled trade occupations are some of the best paid available and offer a lot of flexibility for young people. If you go and get certified in a trade, you can move to any place in Canada or the world and have a job."

A report done by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business in 2003 revealed that, of the businesses surveyed, 50 per cent said that lack of qualified labour was one of their biggest problems. Fifty-six per cent of businesses claimed that it was necessary to hire someone unqualified or underqualified just to fill positions. Skilled trades are one of the most difficult industry jobs to fill, and yet they are integral to our society. **ARINA KHARLAMOVA IS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT YORK UNIVERSITY, WORKING ON A SPECIALIZED HONOURS BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ENGLISH AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES.**

Student Voice

Less money leads to more prospects?

Justin Bansal
Student, Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies
Western University
TalentEgg.ca

Recently, something began to bug me. When I do graduate in two years, what will I have to show for it? I'll be a fresh new graduate from a popular university with a bachelor's degree, but so will everyone else! Surely we will have some work experience — summers at the local grocery store, lifeguard at the pool, waiter at a restaurant. But is that enough?

Would an employer (say the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, who is looking for a marketing coordinator) rather hire John, graduate of York University, with some summer work experience (waiter etc.), or Jasmine, graduate of Western University, with four to eight months (two summers) of experience working in a volunteer centre as a web and e-marketing assistant?

Jasmine would have developed a social media strategy, launched an e-marketing campaign, designed logos and graphics, and, ultimately, assisted the centre in developing a stronger online presence. She may not have been paid for her work at the centre but the employer does not know that or need to know that. All that matters is that her resumé lists this experience and proves that she would make a great candidate for the position.

My recommendations for students Do more and be more —network with everyone. Attend networking sessions at your school, talk to people in the fields you are interested in, ask questions, attend career fairs, be active on LinkedIn, and improve your skills. Back in 2010, I was selected for an internship with RBC and I believe it's because of the technical skills listed on my resumé that helped me stand out.

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Miami turns up Heat with third straight win

NBA. 'I'll be ready for Game 5,' vows LeBron James, despite being hobbled by leg cramps

The Miami Heat's Chris Bosh, left, comes up with an offensive rebound Tuesday in Miami. AL DIAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James could hardly stand, certainly couldn't run. Good thing all he needed to do was shoot.

Better get well fast, LeBron. You're one win away from the biggest party of your life.

A limping, grimacing James shook off left leg cramps to hit a tiebreaking three-pointer with 2:51 remaining and the Miami Heat held off the Oklahoma City Thunder for a 104-98 victory Tuesday night and a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals that no team has ever blown.

Game 5 is Thursday night and James will have a chance to finish a nine-year chase that started in Cleveland before he famously — or infamously — left for South Florida before last season.

"Of course it's there to think about," James acknowledged.

With James watching the final moments, Mario Chalmers finished off a stellar 25-point effort that matched Dwyane Wade. James had 26 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds, missing a shot at a triple-double only because he was on the bench at the end after thigh cramps emerged following a fall near the Thunder basket.

The Heat needed all James could give and more to hold off Russell Westbrook. He scored 43 points for the Thunder, who wasted an early 17-point lead but were never out of the game because of their sensational point guard. Kevin Durant had 28 points but James Harden threw in another clunker, finishing with eight points on 2-of-10 shooting. Westbrook and Durant were the only Thunder players to score in the last 16:46.

"Shots were falling," said Westbrook, who was 20 of 32. "It really doesn't mean nothing. We didn't come out with the win."

James stumbled to the court on a drive midway through the fourth quarter, staying on the offensive end of the floor as the Heat regained possession on a blocked shot, and he made a short jumper that made it 92-90. After Westbrook missed a jumper, the Heat called timeout as James gingerly went to the court. Unable to walk off, he was carried to the sideline by a pair of teammates.

Game 4

Heat	Thunder
104	98

He returned to a huge roar with a little over four minutes left and the Heat down two, and after Chris Bosh tied it, James slowly walked into a pull-up three-point attempt — perhaps doing so knowing he couldn't drive by anyone — and drilled it.

That made it 97-94, and when Wade followed with a layup with 2:19 left, the Heat finally had enough room to withstand Westbrook, who kept coming all night.

"Whatever it takes. No excuses," said Wade, who had to shake off his own aches and pains after landing hard on his back in the first half following a spectacular block by Serge Ibaka. "You don't want to leave this arena saying you missed opportunities."

Chalmers sure didn't. The player who was struggling so badly that the Thunder put Durant on him in hopes of avoiding further foul trouble made 9-of-15 shots, scoring more points than he had in the previous three games.

"He was due for a big game and he came through for us," Wade said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

NHL

"It's a special feeling. I'm very happy we could get it done here while everyone's here. We can talk about it and be happy. Hopefully they're as happy as I am."

Erik Karlsson, who signed a $45.5-million US, seven-year contract extension with the Ottawa Senators in Las Vegas on Tuesday. Karlsson is a nominee for the Norris Trophy at Wednesday's NHL awards.

On the web

It's been over a year since Canadiens forward Max Pacioretty suffered a broken neck on a hit from Bruins bruiser Zdeno Chara in Montreal. And with Pacioretty a Masterton Trophy nominee at Wednesday's NHL awards in Las Vegas, the Habs scorer is expecting questions regarding the incident to arise once again. Scan the code for the story.

Rooney scores winner in return from suspension

Euro 2012. England gets victory over Ukraine amidst controversy over a disallowed goal

England's John Terry clears the ball away from his goal Tuesday in Donetsk, Ukraine. MATTHIAS SCHRADER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Only one goal counted, and it belonged to Wayne Rooney.

The England striker returned from a two-match suspension to head in the lone goal Tuesday and give his team a 1-0 win over Ukraine and a spot in the European Championship quarter-finals. The co-host Ukrainians, however, will leave the tournament knowing that things could have been different.

Needing a win to advance, the Ukrainians thought they had equalized in the 62nd minute when Marko Devic's looping shot appeared to cross the line before it was hooked clear by England defender John Terry. But the goal was not awarded by the referee or his extra assistant, who was half-standing on the field only a few metres from the post.

"The goal that wasn't given really changed our plan because if it was given, I think the whole game could have looked another way," Ukraine captain Andriy Shevchenko said through an interpreter. "We tried to give Ukraine a gift but we weren't able to do it."

Although a draw still would have eliminated them, the equalizer would have given the team hope knowing that another goal would put Ukraine through to the quarter-finals.

"I was sad because the ball was in the goal by one metre," Ukraine coach Oleg Blokhin said.

The controversy will likely add to the pressure on UEFA president Michel Platini to reverse his opposition to goal-line technology.

Quoted

"I don't want to talk about the referees, we lost the game. I don't want to put everything on the referees."

Ukraine coach Oleg Blokhin

It was Rooney, however, who did manage to put his team on the scoreboard.

England captain Steven Gerrard whipped a cross into the penalty area that glanced off two defenders before Ukraine goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov let it slip through his hands as he crouched to collect the ball. Rooney was primed at the far post and made it count.

"I was always putting myself in goal-scoring opportunities," Rooney said. "I could've done better with a couple more but I got the goal and it's three points."

Rooney missed the first two Euro 2012 matches through suspension. He was sent off in the team's last qualifier in October, and received a three-match suspension that was eventually reduced to two.

With the victory, England won Group D and will next face Italy in Kyiv on Sunday. France also advanced. Ukraine, however, will have to watch the rest of the tournament as spectators, just like co-host Poland.

At the 2010 World Cup, England midfielder Frank Lampard was denied a goal that would have levelled the match against Germany at 2-2. England ended up losing 4-1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Group D

French move on despite loss to Swedes

French coach Laurent Blanc speaks on Tuesday in Kyiv, Ukraine. GETTY IMAGES

France was outplayed, outfought and outscored, and that was against a team with nothing to play for.

With world champion Spain now waiting in the quarter-finals of the European Championship on Saturday, things better improve quickly for the French.

France limped into the knockout round with a 2-0 loss to Sweden in their final group game, showing just how much the team still needs to improve to be true contenders in the tournament.

"You have to be optimistic to think that we can beat Spain, but it's hard right now to imagine that we can. We have to do better on Saturday," France coach Laurent Blanc said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fan violence

Russia appeals UEFA sanctions

UEFA says the Russian football association has appealed against a threatened six-point deduction during qualifying for the next European Championship because of its fans' violence at Euro 2012.

The European football body says Russia is also challenging a $151,000 US fine, imposed after fans attacked stadium stewards in Wroclaw, Poland, following a game against the Czech Republic.

The UEFA charge of improper conduct also related to fans throwing fireworks on the pitch and displaying nationalist flags. UEFA says a date for the appeal has not been decided. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missing person

Polish police puzzled by disappearance

A time-stamped photo on a friend's phone is the last trace authorities have of an Irish soccer fan who went missing in Poland after a European Championship game Saturday.

The image shows him with his friends at 2 a.m. Sunday, but everything after that is a mystery, one compounded by the blurry memory of friends who had been drinking. Now, an intense search is under way across the northern city of Bydgoszcz and in its Brda River involving more than 100 police officers.

Photos of Nolan have been plastered around the city and one police official says the disappearance is highly unusual for a usually peaceful place.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whitecaps aim to prove their worth vs. Red Bulls

Sebastien Le Toux celebrates after scoring against the Colorado Rapids last Saturday in Vancouver. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Vancouver Whitecaps will face another high hurdle Wednesday night as they try to keep pace with Major League Soccer's elite clubs.

The New York Red Bulls will be missing a couple of stars as they visit B.C. Place, but still pose a challenge to a Vancouver squad that is out to prove it can battle with the best after ranking as the worst team in its 2011 MLS expansion season.

"They're one of the major franchises in MLS, so it's a big test for us and one that we're looking forward to," said Whitecaps coach Martin Rennie.

New York, third in the Eastern Conference with an 8-4-2 record, will play without French striker Thierry Henry, a global icon, and Mexican midfielder Rafa Marquez. Henry, who has starred for Barcelona in Spain's top league, English Premier League side Arsenal and Italian-circuit powerhouse Juventus, sits third in MLS this season with nine goals.

The league's highest-paid player at $5.6 million US this season, he is recuperating from a strained calf muscle suffered last weekend in a loss to Chicago.

He also missed the Red Bulls' visit to Vancouver last season because of a sore knee.

Marquez will miss the game due to a thigh injury.

But Rennie downplayed the significance of their absence. Contending absences are to be expected, the Caps coach said New York is still a difficult foe with the likes of American striker Ken Cooper and Jamaican midfielder Dane Richards in the lineup.

Cooper shares the league scoring lead with San Jose's Chris Wondolowski at 11 goals.

"Obviously, (Henry) is a top player in the league," said Rennie. "But even without Henry, they've been on a good run of winning games."

The Red Bulls are 3-1-1 in their past five league matches. The Whitecaps (7-3-4) have also enjoyed a successful stretch lately, going unbeaten in their past four MLS contests.

Vancouver, third in the Western Conference, has already surpassed the measly six wins it mustered in all of 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Caddy's XTS steps up to the plate

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Aesthetics

Visually, the XTS comes across as much leaner and tauter than its predecessor, although its chiselled nose and tail and a high beltline are common to the Cadillac fleet. Overall, the XTS's elegant, original design clearly distinguishes it from its European counterparts.

Safety features

Like most vehicles in its class, the XTS has a laundry list of safety electronics and warnings. The Driver Awareness Package includes lane-departure warning that alerts you if an unintended lane change is imminent. As well, forward collision alert warns of a too-rapid closing speed to the vehicle in front.

2013 Cadillac XTS

- **Type.** Four-door, front- /all-wheel-drive full-size luxury sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 3.6-litre DOHC V6 (304).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy): 11.5/7.5 (est., FWD).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $50,600.

There are no plans for a V8 option, but a plug-in gasoline-electric hybrid is reportedly in the pipeline.

Engine

No XTS pilot will be overwhelmed by the powertrain. For now, the sole choice is a 304-horsepower 3.6-litre V6 that operates through a six-speed automatic transmission with manual shift controls. All-wheel-drive can be added to the three trim levels — Luxury, Premium and Platinum — above the base XTS.

Review. Faced with whether to keep the STS or the DTS, Cadillac did the only sensible thing: it replaced both

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Cadillac is shaking up its product line in a big way and the XTS sedan literally plays the biggest part in General Motors' premium division.

For the 2013 model year, the XTS becomes the flagship of Cadillac's passenger-car fleet, replacing both the front-wheel-drive DTS and the rear-wheel-drive STS.

At the opposite end, the equally new ATS becomes Caddy's smallest and least-expensive car (the mid-range CTS stands pat).

As with the DTS, the XTS (which is arriving at dealerships now) is front-wheel-drive.

It's a platform that will also be used for the 2014 Chevrolet Impala. As big as it is, the XTS is about 14 centimetres shorter and five centimetres narrower than the DTS and is also 10 centimetres shorter between the front and rear wheels.

But don't let the shrinkage fool you as the revised proportions, including a shorter hood and a higher roofline, mean greater interior room. According to Cadillac's tape measure, there's more rear-seat and trunk space than a BMW 5 Series, Mercedes-Benz E-Class and an Audi A6.

Since the XTS is a Cadillac, there are almost unlimited comfort and convenience items, many of which are standard in the $50,600 (including destination costs) base car.

That price seems reasonable given the car's cutting-edge looks and content and the fact that other premium automakers charge as much or more for their higher-end models.

The subtle integration of wood-coloured finishes, mixed with silvery pieces, is a very elegant touch.

Although noticeably smaller than the previous DTS model, the XTS's interior volume has increased. That's because modern designs have less front-rear overhang, which helps tighten up the packaging.

By comparison

1 Mercedes-Benz E-Class
Base price: $65,500

2 Hyundai Equus
Base price: $66,300

3 Jaguar XF
Base price: $61,200

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

A no-spill, no-waste funnel

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WHEELBASE

On the Web

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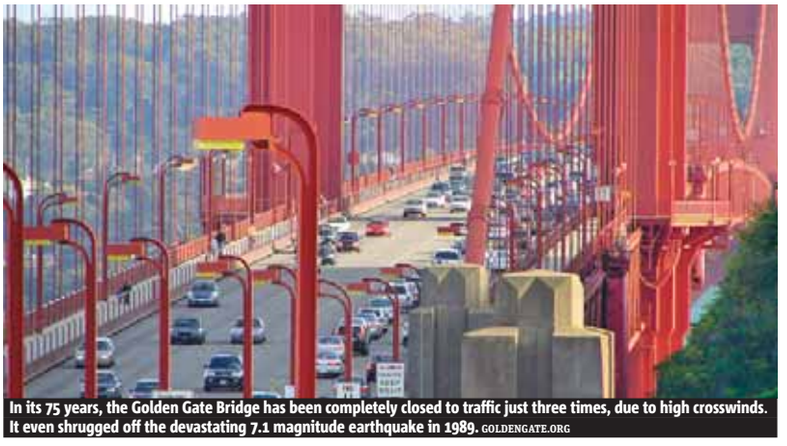
Forty million vehicles use the Golden Gate Bridge every year. MASON CUMMINGS

Opening day in 1937, after the assembly of 805,000 tonnes of steel and the death of 11 people during construction. The Golden Gate Bridge became a key transportation link and symbol of progress. GOLDENGATE.ORG



In its 75 years, the Golden Gate Bridge has been completely closed to traffic just three times, due to high crosswinds. It even shrugged off the devastating 7.1 magnitude earthquake in 1989. GOLDENGATE.ORG

'More than a symbol of San Francisco'

Auto Know. San Francisco's famous landmark, used by 120,000 vehicles a day, recently celebrated its 75th birthday

TODD D. BURLAGE
Wheelbase Media

At last the mighty task is done;
Resplendent in the western sun
The Bridge looms mountain high;
Its titan piers grip ocean floor,
Its great steal arms link shore with shore,
It's towers pierce the sky.
Beneath, fleet ships from every port,
Vast landlocked by historic fort,
And dwarfing all — the sea.

It's an excerpt from the poem The Mighty Task Is Done, written by Joseph P. Strauss, the visionary and chief engineer for the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

The tribute was written in 1937, upon the opening of the majestic and delicate-looking structure. It celebrates a project that took more than four years and 805,000 tonnes of steal to complete, and claimed 11 lives during its construction.

The Golden Gate Bridge celebrated her 75th birthday in May, marked by an impressive fireworks show, a giant parade and a citywide celebration. Considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World, if these rivets, cables and towers could talk, what a story they would tell.

"Its rugged beauty is remarkable," said Patrick Clemens, a San Franciscan whose apartment in the Marina District overlooks the Golden Gate Bridge to the West. "The bridge is truly more than a symbol of San Francisco. It's a symbol of American ingenuity."

The first automobile crossed the Golden Gate Bridge at high noon on May 28, 1937, to the sound of celebratory church bells and fire sirens throughout San Francisco. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signalled the opening of the 2.7-kilometre bridge with the push of a telegraph key that announced the event to the world, and opened a needed gateway to and from San Francisco.

"Part of (the bridge concept) was very basic," said John King, the urban design critic for the San Francisco Chronicle. "The automobile was picking up popularity, and by all accounts, you had two-to-three-hour waits to get across the gate on a Sunday night by car ferry."

As the only road to exit San Francisco to the north, leading to the Sonoma and Napa wine regions, the six-lane bridge served its one billionth automobile in 1985 and carries about 120,000 vehicles a day and 40 million back and forth across the Bay every year. And with a $6 toll to take the bridge into San Francisco, the Golden Gate generates about US $85 million in revenue every year.

By the numbers

162,414
The highest number of vehicles to cross the bridge in a day (Oct. 27, 1989).

45
The bridge's speed limit in m.p.h., which translates to 72 km/h.

$6
The toll to use the bridge.

$85M
The amount of money generated by the bridge each year.

But the convenience and earning power of the bridge are only sidebars to the reliability story the Golden Gate has demonstrated to commuters in its 75 years of service.

Amazingly, the Golden Gate Bridge has been briefly closed to automobile traffic only three times in its history, all because of sustained winds off the Pacific Ocean in excess of 70 m.p.h. (112 km/h), but it survived all three incidents without any structural damage.

The suspension span can sway more than six metres, which gets a driver's attention while crossing it and creates some motion sickness for pedestrians on a windy day, but the flexibility absorbs the unforgiving wind and weather this region routinely brings.

"You couldn't have put the bridge in a more corrosive atmosphere than in the middle of the Golden Gate with that salt fog coming in," said Daniel Mohn, a former chief engineer for the bridge and a Golden Gate historian.

During the evening commute on Oct. 17, 1989, traffic throughout the Bay Area was snarled when a 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck. Considered the most devastating quake to hit the area since 1906, the Bay Bridge to the east was shut down when two 15-metre sections collapsed, diverting about 40,000 additional drivers to the Golden Gate Bridge, which was left undamaged and operational through the memorable quake and subsequent repair period.

On Oct. 27, 1989, a record 162,414 vehicles crossed the Golden Gate Bridge while the Bay Bridge was being repaired.

Weather isn't the only hazard the Golden Gate Bridge presents to drivers. The daily practice of changing lane patterns to help traffic flow has contributed to dozens of crashes on the bridge and endless headaches for transit district officials.

North and southbound lanes are lined and separated by 50-centimetre yellow rubber tube markers placed every eight metres. During the morning commute, four of the six lanes run southbound into San Francisco, and during the evening rush hour, the markers are reconfigured so that four lanes run into Marin County on the north side of the Bay, a traffic flow adjustment that has confused drivers through the years, and brought a push to install a movable median barrier on the bridge.

As another safety initiative for drivers, the speed limit on the bridge was reduced in 1996 to 45 m.p.h. (72 km/h) from 55 (89 km/h) and fines for speeding on the span were doubled, which officials say have reduced the number of collisions on the bridge.

Joseph P. Strauss faced many critics who told him the San Francisco Bay could never be spanned by a suspension bridge surrounded by some of the harshest winds and climate conditions Mother Nature can unleash.

But through one man's vision and the death-defying feats of thousands of bridge workers over the decades, 75 years of service may be only the infancy for this proud bridge that is truly the Golden Standard.

Ask of the steel, each strut and wire,
Ask of the searching purging fire,
That marked their natal hour;
Ask of the mind, the hand, the heart,
Ask of each single stalwart part,
What gave it force and power.

Auto students learn computers as well as cars

JIL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

As auto innovations move ahead, the idea of technicians being merely "grease monkeys" is now firmly in the past. Students training for the trade must know as much about computers as they do about wrenches.

"It's not about 'hard parts' anymore," says Al Playter, an instructor in automotive and motorcycle programs at Toronto's Centennial College.

"We're now dealing with computerized systems that require diagnosis. In some cases we could have up to 55 or 60 onboard computers that not only process data but control the car. To successfully diagnose it requires sophisticated equipment, and the ability to interpret the data that you see."

Students in the program start with the basics in five disciplines: electronics and fuels; steering, suspension and brakes; powertrains; engines; and work practices and procedures, which includes computer skills, tools, measuring devices, air conditioning, lubricants, and bearings and seals. It takes three to five years to become a licensed technician.

The car's computers will generate fault codes when something goes wrong, and the students can plug in diagnostic tools to access them, but it seldom comes down to the car simply "telling" the student what part to replace.

"The diagnostic equipment doesn't pinpoint the exact cause," Playter says.

Students also have to study hybrid vehicles, including safety when dealing with high-voltage equipment. Despite all of the computers, though, parts still have to be replaced or fixed. "Hammers, chisels, wrenches — we're still using them," Playter says. "That's still all part and parcel, regardless of how technical we get."

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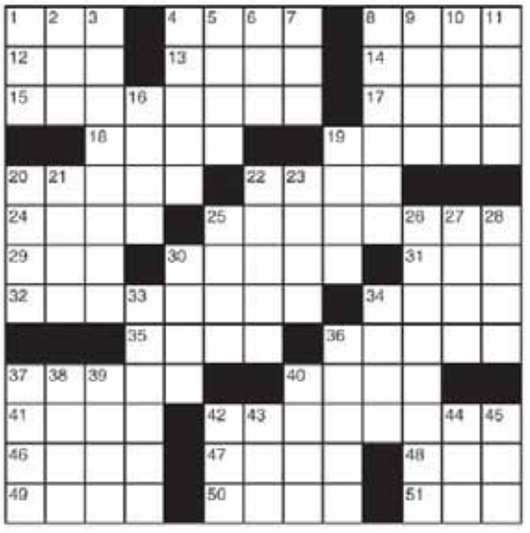
**MSRP is $21,575 including Freight and PDI of $1,495 based on a new 2012 Fit Sport model GE8H7CE. ¥0.99% finance offer is based on a new 2012 Fit DX model (GE8G2CEX and a 36 month finance term available only through Honda Canada finance Inc. O.A.C. Finance example $16,075 at 0.99% per annum equals $548.49 for 24 months. Freight and PDI of $1,495 included. Cost of borrowing is $134.76 for a total obligation of $18,163.52. Down payment of $5,000, first monthly payment, environmental fees and $0 security deposit due at finance inception. *0.99% lease offer is based on a 24 month term. Limited time lease offer based on a new 2012 Fit DX model GE8G3CEX and a 24 month lease term available only through Honda Canada Finance Inc. O.A.C. Lease example 0.99% lease APR for 24 months O.A.C. Monthly payment including Freight and PDI is $110.97. Down payment of $5,000, first monthly payment, environmental fees and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $7,663.28. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 48,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer trade may be required. £http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/2012/05/best-values/index.htm **/*/%/£/¥ Offers valid from June 1st through July 3rd, 2012 at participating Honda retailers. Offers valid only for British Columbia residents at BC Honda Dealers locations. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.bchonda.com or see your Honda retailer for full details. *No Purchase Necessary. Contest runs August 1st, 2012 at 5:00:01 a.m. ET. Open to age of majority legal residents of Canada who were the owner of a Honda vehicle as of June 18, 2012 at 12:00:01 a.m. ET. At the beginning of the Contest there are two (2) Grand Prizes available, each consisting of a 36 month lease of a 2012 Honda Civic vehicle (either a Civic 4D EX 5MT (FB2E5CJX), a Civic 4D EX 5AT (FB2E5CJX), or a Civic 2D EX-R 5MT (FG3A5CJ), or a Civic 2D EX-R 5AT (FG3B5CJ)), and each with an approximate retail value of $35,000; 80 Service Credit Prizes available, each with a retail value of $250; and 80 Gas Card prizes available, each with a retail value of $250. Mathematical skill-testing question required. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received prior to the cut-off date associated with each draw date (as detailed in the full rules). To enter, or to view the full rules, visit: www.hondacontest.ca

Across
1 Woman, slangily
4 Information
8 "— of Our Lives"
12 Diva's problem
13 Hodgepodge
14 Acknowledge
15 Script
17 Start of something big?
18 Hoodlum
19 English homework
20 Say it's OK
22 Recording
24 Dorm dweller
25 Fossey subjects
29 Slapstick missile
30 Invigorant
31 "A Chorus Line" song
32 In the cards
34 Pesky flier
35 Crystal gazer
36 Wade of baseball
37 Inlets
40 Architect — Ming Pei
41 Condo, e.g.
42 Look of sadness
46 H look-alikes
47 Advantage
48 Annoy
49 Clinton competitor
50 Borscht ingredient
51 "Catcher in the —"

Down
1 Solidify
2 Past
3 Spiderlike "daddy"
4 "Impossible!"
5 Joie de vivre
6 Triumph
7 Turf
8 Maiden
9 Erstwhile ova
10 Relaxing exercise
11 Convince
16 OK
19 Grand story
20 Shot a hole-in-one
21 Theater box
22 Photocopier need
23 Desertlike
25 Vanished
26 Lover of classical music
27 Scrambled wd.
28 Collections
30 Haberdashery rackful
33 Sleeping-sickness carrier
34 Slip-up
36 Sire
37 Prompted
38 Knowing about
39 Lab container
40 "Bus Stop" writer
42 Beirut's land (Abbr.)
43 Praiseful piece
44 Turn on the waterworks
45 Supplement, with "out"



2	9			3			5	
	7			4			8	3
	8				6			
		7	9		8			
5								1
			4		1	7		
			3				1	
9	4			8			3	
	5			6			7	2

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	8	3	5	1	4	6	9
6	9	3	4	2	8	1	7	5
1	5	4	9	6	7	3	8	2
2	6	1	5	9	3	8	4	7
8	4	9	7	1	6	5	2	3
3	7	5	8	4	2	9	1	6
4	1	6	2	3	5	7	9	8
5	8	2	1	7	9	6	3	4
9	3	7	6	8	4	2	5	1

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

FL CQUU-VJEXNPMR HOYPMXYY KQY HXXM RXZZPMR FOVK YUJCXN. LJO FPRKZ YQL AQAXNPMR PY ZQAXNPMR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE MUCH MORE SPEEDY THAN ALL OTHER COMPETITORS, ONE COULD SAY YOU'RE FASTLY SUPERIOR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals M

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Minor disputes will only turn major if you allow your emotions to rule you. On the home front, you should strive to be more forgiving of weakness.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. As the Sun moves away from the money area of your chart today, you should consider giving up on a project that has not worked out the way you intended. Don't waste more time.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You may find yourself lacking in energy today but that's to be expected after all the efforts you've made in recent weeks.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. The Sun in your sign over the next four weeks will make all things possible, but don't go mad and start taking foolish risks.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. A clash of opinions is likely today and you are likely to be quite aggressive in defense of your views. Is it worth it?

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. There is no need to be cautious and there is no need to believe rivals are out to get you. Even if they are, you have what it takes to outwit them.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. The Sun crosses the career angle of your chart today, helping you to impress people in positions of power. Your ideas and actions will in turn have a big influence.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You may be conservative by nature but that does not mean you are incapable of original thought — far from it in fact. Get together with like-minded people to work on an idea.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. It will pay you to be a bit more secretive today. There are some things that even your best friend should not know about you.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You are midway through your solar year, making this a good time to take stock of how far you have come and how far you still have to travel.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. The Sun moves into the area of your chart that governs your work and your wellbeing today. Ask yourself: Am I happy with what I'm doing? Am I at my physical best?

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. As the Sun begins a four-week spell in the most dynamic area of your chart, you are full of big ideas and even bigger plans. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"I hear Atlas is retiring, and I want to audition for his job."
Liz

SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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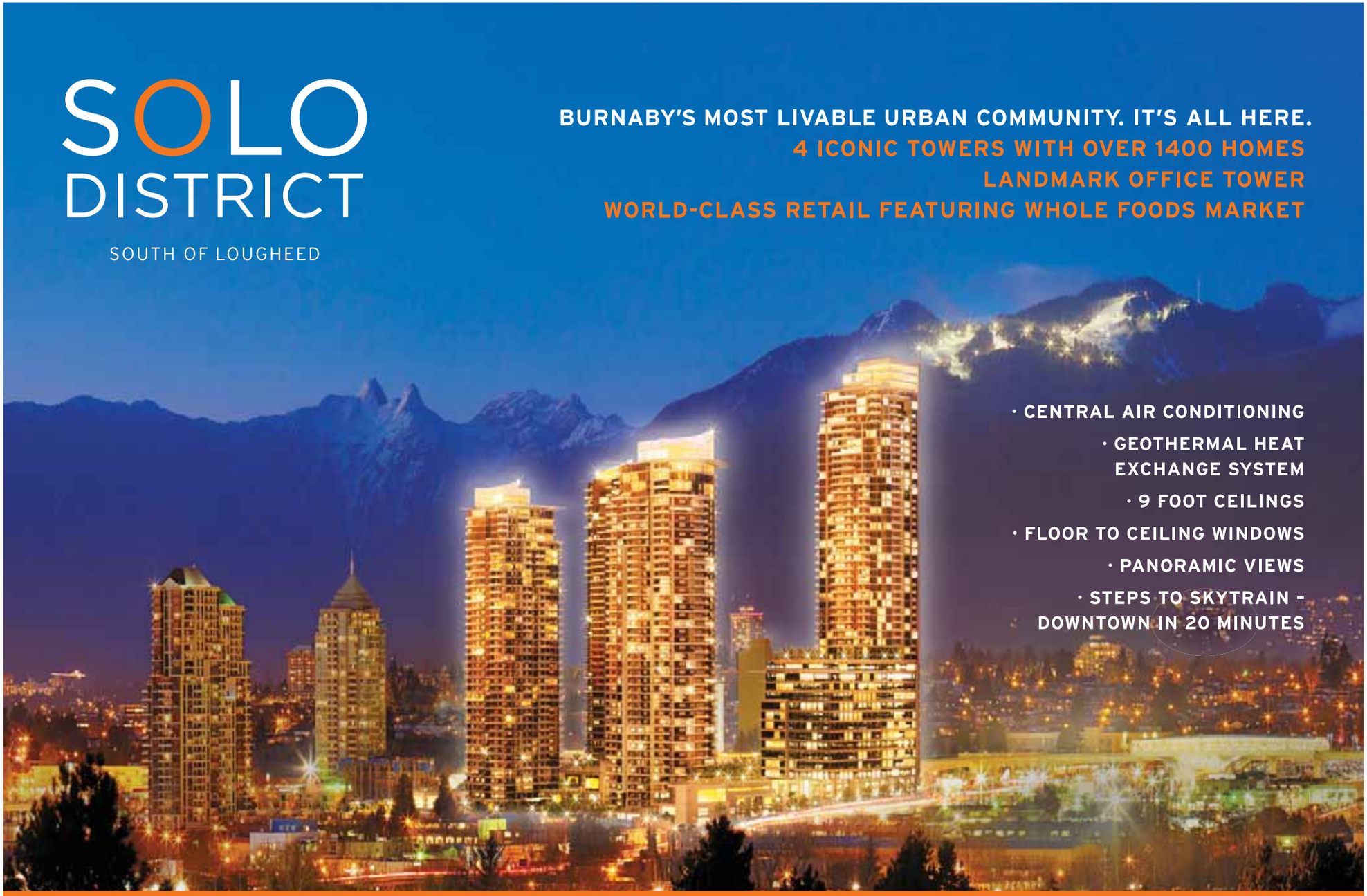

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Limited model shown

2012 TUCSON GL AWD

HIGHWAY 7.1L/100 KM 40 MPG▼

INCLUDES: 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION ■ HEATED FRONT SEATS ■ BLUETOOTH HANDS FREE PHONE SYSTEM ■ CRUISE CONTROL ■ STEERING WHEEL AUDIO CONTROLS

SELLING PRICE: $26,359•
TUCSON GL AWD. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

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Limited model shown

2012 SANTA FE GL 2.4 AWD

INCLUDES: 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION ■ HEATED FRONT SEATS ■ BLUETOOTH HANDS FREE PHONE SYSTEM ■ 18" ALLOY WHEELS ■ POWER SUNROOF

HIGHWAY 8.0L/100 KM 35 MPG▼

SELLING PRICE: $29,459•
SANTA FE GL 2.4 AWD WITH PREMIUM PKG. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

NO CHARGE AWD‡ + 0%† FINANCING FOR 72 MONTHS + SAVE 40¢/L UNTIL 2013Ω

GLS model shown

2012 VERACRUZ GL AWD

INCLUDES: 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION ■ HEATED FRONT SEATS ■ BLUETOOTH HANDS FREE PHONE SYSTEM ■ 7 PASSENGER SEATING ■ REAR PARKING ASSIST SYSTEM

HIGHWAY 8.9L/100 KM 32 MPG▼

BONUS 7 YEAR WARRANTY 120,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY^

7 PASSENGER SEATING

SELLING PRICE: $35,259•
VERACRUZ GL AWD. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

NO CHARGE AWD‡ + 0%† FINANCING FOR 72 MONTHS + SAVE 40¢/L UNTIL 2013Ω

5 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY^

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

HyundaiCanada.com

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D#6700

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Surrey, 604-538-7022
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Richmond, 604-606-9033
D#28516

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23213 Lougheed Highway
Maple Ridge, 604-467-3401
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Jim Pattison Hyundai Port Coquitlam
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Port Coquitlam, 604-552-1700
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30250 Automall Dr.
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Langley Hyundai
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Surrey, 604-539-8549
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